

## Zara's Colourful Kandinsky Challenge

*Learning objective: To explore the life and abstract artistic style of Wassily Kandinsky, focusing on the use of colour, shape, and synaesthesia.*

Join Zara the zebra on an artistic journey! Read the facts carefully and answer all 10 questions to prove you are a master of abstract expressionism.

Answer Key: 1. A (Wassily), 2. True, 3. Synaesthesia, 4. B (Music), 5. Geometric, 6. True, 7. C (Squares with Concentric Circles), 8. False, 9. Primary, 10. Abstract. Teachers: Ensure pupils understand that Kandinsky believed art could 'sound' like music.

*Word bank: Abstract · Synaesthesia · Geometric · Composition · Primary · Harmony · Wassily · Rhythm*

**1. 1. What is the first name of the artist Kandinsky? A) William, B) \*Wassily, C) Wilfred, D) Winston (1 mark)**

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**2. 2. True or False: Kandinsky was born in Russia. (1 mark)**

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**3. 3. What is the name of the rare condition Kandinsky had, where he could 'hear' colours and 'see' sounds? (1 mark)**

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**4. 4. Kandinsky often compared his paintings to which other art form? A) Poetry, B) \*Music, C) Dancing, D) Cooking (1 mark)**

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**5. 5. In his later work, Kandinsky used many shapes like triangles, circles, and rectangles. What type of shapes are these? (One word) (1 mark)**

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**6. 6. True or False: Kandinsky's art is famous for being realistic, looking exactly like photographs. (1 mark)**

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**7. 7. Which famous artwork features colourful rings inside boxes? A) The Starry Night, B) The Scream, C) \*Squares with Concentric Circles, D) The Persistence of Memory (1 mark)**

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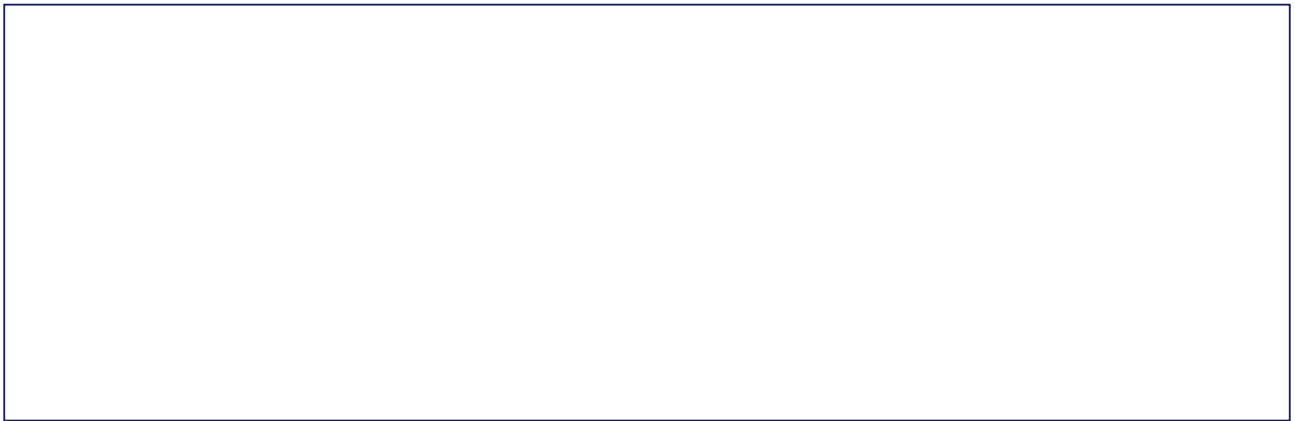
**8. 8. True or False: Kandinsky believed that colours could influence a person's emotions. (1 mark)**

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**9. 9. Kandinsky often used the three colours: Red, Yellow, and Blue. What is this group of colours called? (1 mark)**

**10. 10. What style of art describes a painting that does not show specific objects or people? A) Portrait, B) Landscape, C) \*Abstract, D) Still life (1 mark)**

**Draw: Using Zara the zebra's love for patterns, create your own Kandinsky-inspired masterpiece. Use a ruler to draw geometric shapes and fill them with vibrant, contrasting colours. Try to make your drawing feel like a piece of music—does your 'loud' colour look like a drum beat or a violin note?**



*Extension challenge: Greater Depth Questions: 1. Explain why Kandinsky chose to move away from painting realistic landscapes. 2. Compare and contrast the feeling of a painting using only cool colours (blues/greens) versus one using only warm colours (reds/yellows). 3. Justify your answer: If Kandinsky were alive today, what modern invention might he use to create his art and why? 4. What might happen to the 'rhythm' of a painting if you removed all the circles and replaced them with sharp, jagged lines? 5. How would you describe the difference between 'representational' art and 'abstract' art to a younger student? 6. Design a new 'Concentric Circle' piece using a budget of £50 to buy art supplies—list three items you would purchase and justify your choices.*