

## Exploring Abstract Art with Zara the Zebra

*Learning objective: To understand the abstract art style of Wassily Kandinsky, focusing on the use of shape, colour, and the connection between music and visual art.*

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of Wassily Kandinsky's artistic style to provide detailed answers. Zara the Zebra is excited to see your creative thinking!

Wassily Kandinsky was a pioneer of abstract art. He believed that colours and shapes could express feelings and represent sounds. He often painted using circles, triangles, and squares to create a sense of harmony on the canvas. He was fascinated by the idea of 'synaesthesia', where he felt he could 'hear' colours as if they were musical notes.

*Word bank: Abstract · Composition · Synaesthesia · Geometric · Primary colours · Emotion*

**1. Kandinsky was famous for painting 'abstract' art. In your own words, explain what it means when a painting does not look exactly like a real-life object. (2 marks)**

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**2. Look at a typical Kandinsky composition. List three geometric shapes he often used and explain why he might have chosen them to create balance. (3 marks)**

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**3. Kandinsky often associated colours with specific musical instruments or sounds. If you were painting a 'loud' or 'energetic' piece of music, which colours would you choose and why? (2 marks)**

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**4. Why is Kandinsky's work considered different from a traditional portrait or a landscape painting? (2 marks)**

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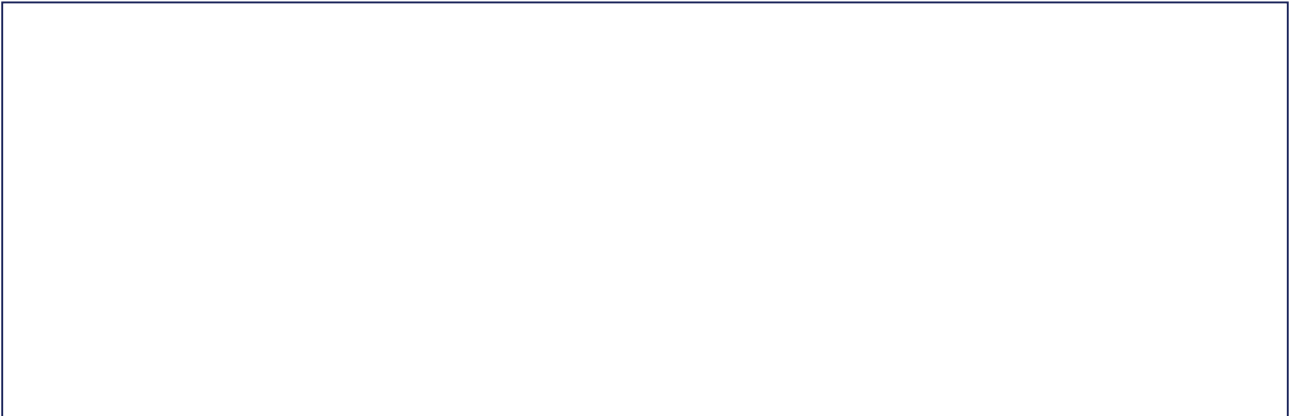
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5. Zara the Zebra wants to create a piece of art that shows 'happiness'. Based on your knowledge of Kandinsky, how could she use line and colour to represent this emotion without drawing a face? (2 marks)

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**Draw:** Using a ruler and a compass, create your own Kandinsky-inspired 'Composition'. Focus on using overlapping circles, intersecting lines, and a bold colour palette to show a musical rhythm.



*Extension challenge: Research the term 'Synaesthesia'. Write a short paragraph explaining how this neurological condition influenced the way Kandinsky created his masterpieces.*