

Zara's Pattern Explorers: Mastering Visual Design

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and apply different types of patterns found in art and nature, using formal artistic vocabulary.

Read each flashcard carefully. Try to think of an example from the natural world or the classroom for each term before checking the answer.

What is a Motif?

A single design element or shape that is repeated to create a pattern.

Define 'Repetition' in art.

The use of the same visual element or motif over and over again in a composition.

What is a Tessellation?

A pattern made by repeating shapes that fit together perfectly without any gaps or overlaps.

Explain 'Symmetry'.

When one side of a design is a mirror image of the other side.

What is the difference between Geometric and Organic patterns?

Geometric patterns use precise shapes like squares and triangles; Organic patterns use natural, flowing shapes like leaves or waves.

What is 'Interlocking'?

When shapes or parts of a pattern overlap or fit into one another like a jigsaw puzzle.

Describe 'Reflection' in pattern design.

A type of symmetry where a shape is flipped over an axis to create a mirror image.

What is 'Rotation' in a pattern?

When a motif is turned around a central point to create a repeating design.

Define 'Abstract' pattern.

A pattern that does not look like a specific real-world object, but focuses on lines, colours, and shapes instead.

Explain the role of 'Negative Space' in a pattern.

The area surrounding the main motif or shape, which is just as important as the design itself.

Why do artists use 'Contrast' in patterns?

To make certain parts of the design stand out by using opposing colours or different line thicknesses.

How does 'Scale' affect a pattern?

The size of the motifs compared to the background; changing the scale can make a pattern look busy or calm.