

Exploring the Cubist World with Zara

Learning objective: To analyse the artistic techniques of Pablo Picasso and apply Cubist principles to create a fragmented portrait.

Zara the zebra has been looking at the work of Pablo Picasso. Use your knowledge of Cubism to answer the questions below, then apply these techniques to your own artwork.

Pablo Picasso was a pioneering artist who helped invent Cubism. Instead of painting objects as they look in real life, he broke them down into geometric shapes and showed different viewpoints at the same time. His work often features bold colours, sharp angles, and a sense of movement, turning everyday subjects into complex, abstract puzzles.

Word bank: Cubism · fragmented · geometric · perspective · abstract · composition · multi-dimensional

1. Explain why Picasso chose to show multiple viewpoints of a person's face in a single portrait. How does this change the way the viewer perceives the subject? (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast a traditional portrait (like a photograph) with a Cubist painting. List two main differences in how the subject is presented. (2 marks)

3. Justify your answer: Why might an artist choose to use 'fragmented' shapes instead of smooth, realistic lines to show emotion in a painting? (3 marks)

4. What might happen if you painted a bowl of fruit using only curved, natural lines compared to using sharp, geometric shapes? Describe the difference in the final composition. (2 marks)

5. Identify one way that Picasso's use of colour helped to make his paintings feel more energetic or chaotic. (1 mark)

Draw: Using Zara's sketchbook style, draw a portrait of a friend or family member. However, you must apply Cubist techniques: show one eye in profile and one from the front, use triangles and rectangles for the nose and chin, and include at least three different patterns in the background.



Extension challenge: Research the 'Blue Period' of Picasso's career. Write a short paragraph explaining how his mood and choice of colour palette changed during this time compared to his later Cubist works. How does colour influence the atmosphere of an artwork?