

Exploring the Art of Pablo Picasso with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the development of Cubism and how Pablo Picasso used geometric shapes and multiple perspectives to represent subjects.

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of Picasso's artistic style to answer them. Zara the Zebra is looking for creative thinkers who can spot patterns in art!

Pablo Picasso was a Spanish artist who changed the way we look at art. He is best known for helping to create a style called Cubism. Instead of painting things exactly as they looked, he broke objects down into geometric shapes like cubes, triangles, and spheres. He often showed different sides of an object at the same time, making his paintings look bold, colourful, and a little bit like a puzzle. By looking at his work, we can learn how to see the world from many different points of view.

Word bank: Cubism · Perspective · Geometric · Abstract · Fragmented · Portrait

1. What is the name of the art movement that Pablo Picasso helped to create, and what are its main features? (2 marks)

2. Explain why Picasso chose to use geometric shapes when painting his subjects instead of painting them realistically. (2 marks)

3. If you were to paint a portrait of a friend using Cubism, how would you show their face from more than one perspective? (2 marks)

4. Identify two types of geometric shapes that are commonly found in Cubist artwork. (1 mark)

5. Zara the Zebra loves patterns! How does Picasso's method of 'fragmenting' an image help to create a new pattern or design? (2 marks)

Draw: Using the style of Cubism, draw a picture of your favourite piece of fruit. Remember to break the fruit into geometric shapes and show it from at least two different angles (for example, showing the top and the side at the same time). Use bright colours to fill in the different sections.



Extension challenge: Research Picasso's 'Blue Period'. Write a short paragraph explaining why he used mostly blue and green tones during that time and how this changed the mood of his paintings.