

Zara's Festive Pattern Workshop

Learning objective: To explore the use of symmetry, pattern, and geometric shapes in seasonal art, inspired by Zara the Zebra.

Zara the Zebra loves spotting patterns in nature. Today, you are going to design a festive scene focusing on intricate patterns and repeating shapes. Follow the steps below to build your masterpiece.

Draw: Create a detailed Christmas-themed illustration inside a large, circular 'bauble' frame. Your drawing must include a central pattern motif (such as a repeating star or snowflake) that demonstrates perfect symmetry. Around the edge of the bauble, design a border using alternating geometric shapes. Use a variety of line weights—thick and thin—to create contrast. You may add a sprig of holly or a ribbon at the top, ensuring your patterns remain the focus of the design.



Label words: Symmetry · Geometric · Tessellation · Intricate · Radial · Motif · Contrast · Festive

Steps:

1. Step 1: Lightly draw a vertical and horizontal line through the centre of your circle. Explain why these lines are essential for achieving perfect symmetry in your bauble design.
2. Step 2: Create a 'motif' in the centre. Compare and contrast your chosen shape with a simple triangle. Why does your complex shape look more 'festive'?

3. Step 3: Add a border using tessellating shapes. Justify your choice of shapes; why do these shapes fit together without leaving any gaps?
4. Step 4: Label your drawing using at least three words from the word bank to explain your artistic techniques.
5. Step 5: If you were to add colour to this piece, what might happen if you used 'complementary' colours (colours opposite each other on the colour wheel) for your background and your motif?
6. Step 6: Describe how you have used line variety to guide the viewer's eye towards the centre of your bauble.