

Mastering Pointillism with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To explore the Post-Impressionist technique of Pointillism and apply it to an original composition.

Follow the steps below to create your own piece of art inspired by Georges Seurat. Use fine-tipped felt pens or sharp coloured pencils to create distinct dots of pure colour, rather than blending them on the page.

Draw: Create a scene featuring a park bench under a large, leafy tree. Instead of using lines or solid blocks of colour, you must fill the entire page using only tiny dots. Focus on the light hitting the leaves: use warmer colours like yellow and orange for the sunlit parts, and cooler colours like blue and purple for the shadows. Ensure your dots are dense in shadowed areas and more sparse where the light is bright.



Label words: Pointillism · Primary colours · Secondary colours · Optical mixing · Texture · Vibrancy

Steps:

1. Step 1: Sketch a simple landscape outline (like a tree or a house). Step 2: Choose two primary colours to place side-by-side. Explain why placing blue dots next to yellow dots makes the human eye 'see' green from a distance.
2. Label your artwork by pointing to an area where you have used 'optical mixing' to create a new shade.
3. Compare and contrast: How does the texture of a Pointillist painting differ from a painting created with

long, smooth brushstrokes?

4. Justify your answer: Why do you think an artist would choose to spend hours placing thousands of tiny dots instead of painting shapes quickly?

5. What might happen to the final image if you placed all your dots too far apart, leaving large white gaps between them?

6. Final Task: Give your masterpiece a creative title that describes the mood of the scene.