

Zara's Colourful Kandinsky Challenge

Learning objective: To explore the life and abstract artistic style of Wassily Kandinsky, focusing on the use of colour, shape, and synaesthesia.

Join Zara the zebra on an artistic journey! Read the facts carefully and answer all 10 questions to prove you are a master of abstract expressionism.

Answer Key: 1. A (Wassily), 2. True, 3. Synaesthesia, 4. B (Music), 5. Geometric, 6. True, 7. C (Squares with Concentric Circles), 8. False, 9. Primary, 10. Abstract. Teachers: Ensure pupils understand that Kandinsky believed art could 'sound' like music.

Word bank: Abstract · Synaesthesia · Geometric · Composition · Primary · Harmony · Wassily · Rhythm

1. 1. What is the first name of the artist Kandinsky? A) William, B) *Wassily, C) Wilfred, D) Winston (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Kandinsky was born in Russia. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the name of the rare condition Kandinsky had, where he could 'hear' colours and 'see' sounds? (1 mark)

4. 4. Kandinsky often compared his paintings to which other art form? A) Poetry, B) *Music, C) Dancing, D) Cooking (1 mark)

5. 5. In his later work, Kandinsky used many shapes like triangles, circles, and rectangles. What type of shapes are these? (One word) (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: Kandinsky's art is famous for being realistic, looking exactly like photographs. (1 mark)

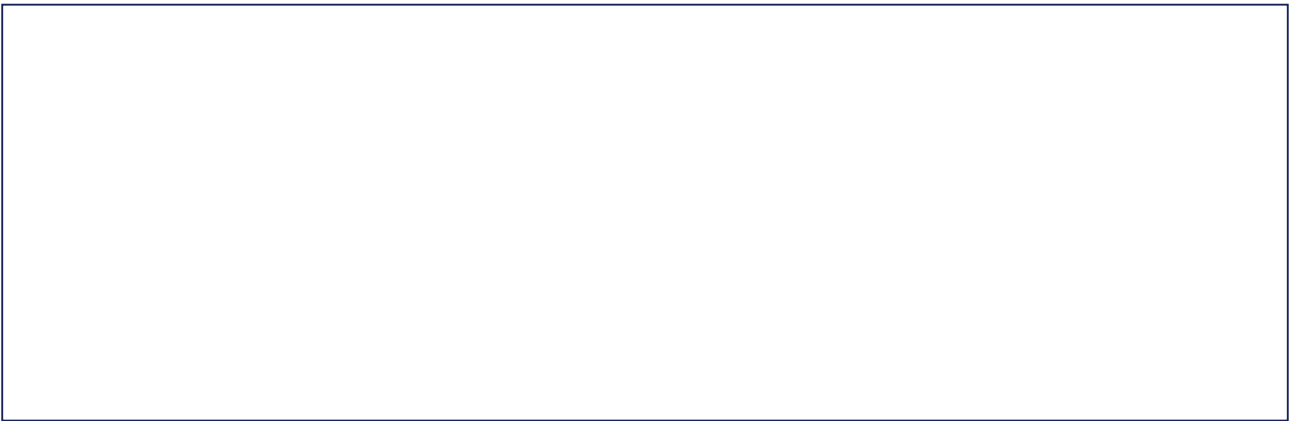
7. 7. Which famous artwork features colourful rings inside boxes? A) The Starry Night, B) The Scream, C) *Squares with Concentric Circles, D) The Persistence of Memory (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: Kandinsky believed that colours could influence a person's emotions. (1 mark)

9. 9. Kandinsky often used the three colours: Red, Yellow, and Blue. What is this group of colours called? (1 mark)

10. 10. What style of art describes a painting that does not show specific objects or people?
A) Portrait, B) Landscape, C) *Abstract, D) Still life (1 mark)

Draw: Using Zara the zebra's love for patterns, create your own Kandinsky-inspired masterpiece. Use a ruler to draw geometric shapes and fill them with vibrant, contrasting colours. Try to make your drawing feel like a piece of music—does your 'loud' colour look like a drum beat or a violin note?



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Questions: 1. Explain why Kandinsky chose to move away from painting realistic landscapes. 2. Compare and contrast the feeling of a painting using only cool colours (blues/greens) versus one using only warm colours (reds/yellows). 3. Justify your answer: If Kandinsky were alive today, what modern invention might he use to create his art and why? 4. What might happen to the 'rhythm' of a painting if you removed all the circles and replaced them with sharp, jagged lines? 5. How would you describe the difference between 'representational' art and 'abstract' art to a younger student? 6. Design a new 'Concentric Circle' piece using a budget of £50 to buy art supplies—list three items you would purchase and justify your choices.