

Zara's Pattern Explorers: Mastering Repetition and Rhythm

Learning objective: To identify, analyse, and create complex repeating patterns, exploring the use of symmetry, rotation, and geometric motifs in art.

Use your knowledge of visual elements to complete the following tasks. Observe the world around you like Zara the zebra—look for rhythm, balance, and shapes in everyday objects.

Word bank: Symmetry · Motif · Tessellation · Rotation · Geometric · Rhythm · Sequence · Contrast

1. Zara has designed a border using a repeating motif: a triangle followed by two circles. If the sequence continues, draw the next four shapes and explain the mathematical rule you used to maintain the rhythm. (3 marks)

2. Explain why a 'tessellation' is often used in architecture and floor tiling. Justify your answer by describing how shapes must fit together to cover a surface without gaps. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast a symmetrical pattern with an asymmetrical pattern. Which one creates a feeling of 'calm' and why? (4 marks)

4. If you were to rotate a square motif by 90 degrees repeatedly, how would the visual appearance of your pattern change? Describe the movement of the design. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if a pattern designer used high-contrast colours, such as bright yellow and deep purple, instead of shades of the same colour? How does this affect the viewer's eye? (2 marks)

6. Imagine you are designing a rug for a palace. Create a brief plan describing the 'motif' you would choose and how you would arrange it to ensure the pattern looks balanced. (3 marks)

Draw: Create a 'Zebra-inspired' geometric pattern in the box below. Your design must include at least one motif that undergoes a rotation and one that utilizes horizontal symmetry. Use a ruler to ensure your geometric lines are precise.

Extension challenge: Design a wallpaper pattern inspired by nature. You must incorporate a tessellating shape (a shape that fits together perfectly) and include a 'focal point' where the pattern breaks its rhythm to draw the viewer's attention. Write a short paragraph explaining the artistic choices you made.