

Zara's Cubist Masterpiece Challenge

Learning objective: To explore the artistic style of Pablo Picasso, focusing on Cubism and the use of geometric shapes to represent a subject from multiple viewpoints.

Zara the Zebra is fascinated by the way Pablo Picasso broke objects into geometric shapes. Using the style of Cubism, you are going to deconstruct a portrait. Look at the prompt below and draw a face as if you were looking at it from the front and the side at the same time. Use the word bank to describe the features you include in your sketch.

Word bank: Geometric · Perspective · Fragmented · Abstract · Cubism · Vibrant · Composition

1. Explain why Picasso chose to paint faces using multiple viewpoints rather than drawing them realistically. How does this change the way the viewer interacts with the art? (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast a traditional portrait of a person with a Cubist portrait. What features are kept, and what features are altered? (3 marks)

3. Justify your choice of colour palette for your own Cubist portrait. How do your colour choices influence the mood of the piece? (2 marks)

4. What might happen to the emotional impact of a painting if the artist uses sharp, angular lines versus soft, curved lines? (2 marks)

5. If you were to create a Cubist sculpture of a household object, which object would you choose and how would you 'break it apart' to show its different sides? (2 marks)

6. Evaluate your final drawing: Did you successfully show two different perspectives at once? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of a friend or family member in the style of Cubism. Divide the face into triangles, squares, and rectangles. Ensure that one eye is positioned as if seen from the front, while the nose and mouth are positioned as if seen from the side.



Extension challenge: Research Picasso's 'Blue Period' and 'Rose Period'. Write a short poem, in the style of Leo the Lion, explaining how an artist's mood or personal circumstances might change the colours they choose to paint with.