

Zara's Printmaking Masterclass: The Artist's Log

Learning objective: To explore the process of printmaking by evaluating techniques, materials, and the impact of repeated patterns.

Use this log to document your printmaking project. Zara the zebra loves finding patterns in nature—look closely at your design and explain your creative choices. Fill in each section carefully, using artistic vocabulary to describe your work.

Word bank: relief · brayer · ink · substrate · texture · impression · mirror image · composition · layering · consistency

1. Design Concept: Describe your initial idea and explain why you chose this specific pattern or motif. (2 marks)

2. Technique Selection: Which tools did you use to create your printing block? Justify your choice of materials. (3 marks)

3. The Process: Explain the steps you took to transfer the ink from the block onto your paper. What happened if you pressed too hard or too softly? (3 marks)

4. Mirror Effect: Compare your original carving on the block to the final printed image. Explain why they appear differently. (2 marks)

5. Evaluation: If you were to create this print again, what might you change to improve the clarity or colour of the final result? (3 marks)

6. Critical Analysis: Zara believes that printmaking is perfect for repeating patterns. Explain why an artist might choose to create a series of prints rather than a single drawing. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Limited Edition' series of three prints that tell a short visual story. Write a brief justification explaining how the sequence of the prints develops your narrative theme.