

Zara's Watercolour Wonders

Learning objective: To understand and apply watercolour techniques, including colour mixing, washes, and control of transparency.

Zara the zebra loves patterns and art! Follow the steps below to experiment with watercolour techniques. For each task, use your brush to explore how water changes the paint. After you have experimented, answer the questions below to show what you have learnt about using these materials.

Word bank: Transparency · Wash · Pigment · Bleeding · Wet-on-wet · Layering

1. Explain the difference between a 'wash' and 'layering' in watercolour painting. Why might an artist wait for the first layer to dry before adding more paint? (2 marks)

2. If you want to create a soft, blurred effect where two colours blend into each other on the paper, which technique should you use? (1 mark)

3. Watercolours are described as 'transparent'. What does this mean for how you paint from light to dark colours? (2 marks)

4. True or False: You can make a watercolour paint darker by adding more water to the brush. Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

5. If you accidentally drop a blob of paint on your artwork, suggest one way to lift some of the colour off while it is still damp. (1 mark)

Draw: Create a landscape painting using a 'wet-on-wet' technique for the sky and a 'dry brush' technique to add texture to the grass or tree bark.



Extension challenge: Research how different types of paper, such as rough-grain versus smooth-pressed, affect how watercolour paint moves and dries on the page. Write a short sentence about which surface you prefer and why.