

Zara's Watercolour Exploration Journal

Learning objective: To experiment with and evaluate different watercolour techniques, including wet-on-wet and wet-on-dry applications.

Follow Zara the Zebra's guide to painting. Before you start your final masterpiece, use this sheet to plan your colours and record how your paint reacts to the paper. Remember to wash your brush thoroughly between colours!

Word bank: pigment · wash · translucent · wet-on-wet · wet-on-dry · gradient · consistency · absorb · layering

1. Colour Mixing: Choose two primary colours. Explain what happens when you mix them on your palette and then apply them to the paper. (2 marks)

2. Wet-on-Wet Technique: Describe how the paint behaves when you apply it to paper that has already been dampened with clear water. (2 marks)

3. Wet-on-Dry Technique: Contrast the edges of your brushstrokes when painting on dry paper compared to wet paper. Why do they look different? (3 marks)

4. Creating Texture: Describe a method you used to create a pattern or texture (e.g., dabbing with a cloth or adding salt). (2 marks)

5. Evaluation: Which technique did you find most effective for creating a light, translucent wash? Explain your choice. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Create a sunset scene using a gradient effect. Start with a concentrated colour at the top and gradually add more water to your brush as you work your way down to the horizon.