

Exploring Abstract Art with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand and apply the principles of abstract art by focusing on non-representational shapes, bold colours, and emotional expression.

Follow the steps below to create your own piece of abstract art. Think about how shapes and colours can represent feelings rather than realistic objects. Use your drawing space to experiment with line and texture.

Draw: Create an abstract composition on a blank sheet of paper. Include at least three overlapping geometric shapes (like triangles or squares) and three organic shapes (like swirling lines or blobs). Use bold, contrasting colours to fill the spaces, ensuring that no two touching shapes are the same colour. Add a variety of textures using fine lines, dots, or cross-hatching inside the shapes to create depth.



Label words: Geometric · Organic · Contrast · Symmetry · Asymmetry · Texture · Vibrant · Composition

Steps:

1. Step 1: Divide your page into four sections using light pencil lines. In one section, draw three overlapping geometric shapes. Describe why you chose these shapes.
2. Step 2: Choose a warm colour palette for one section and a cool colour palette for another. List the colours you will use for each.
3. Step 3: Add 'organic' shapes that look like ripples or leaves to contrast with your geometric shapes.

Explain how these make the composition feel different.

4. Step 4: Use a fine-liner or dark pencil to add 'texture' (dots, dashes, or cross-hatching) to one shape. Why does adding texture change the focus of the artwork?

5. Step 5: Give your finished abstract piece a creative title and explain the emotion you want the viewer to feel when looking at it.