

Exploring Abstract Art with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the key concepts and techniques used in Abstract Art, including form, colour, and non-representational imagery.

Read each flashcard to learn about the world of Abstract Art. Zara the Zebra wants you to think about how colours and shapes can express feelings even when they don't look like real-life objects.

What is Abstract Art?

Abstract art is a style that does not try to represent an accurate depiction of visual reality, using shapes, colours, and forms to achieve its effect.

What does 'non-representational' mean?

It means the artwork does not look like real-world objects, people, or places; it focuses purely on visual elements like line and colour.

What is a 'palette' in painting?

A palette is the specific range of colours chosen and used by an artist for a particular piece of work.

What are geometric shapes?

Shapes that have precise edges and are often mathematical, such as squares, triangles, circles, and rectangles.

What are organic shapes?

Shapes that are irregular, curvy, or free-flowing, often inspired by things found in nature.

Define 'composition' in an artwork.

The way that different parts of an artwork are arranged or organised on the canvas.

What is 'texture' in a painting?

The perceived surface quality of a work of art, which can be smooth, rough, or bumpy through the use of thick paint or different tools.

How can colours show emotion in abstract art?

By using 'warm' colours like red and yellow to show energy, or 'cool' colours like blue and green to show calmness.

True or False: Abstract art must always include a hidden picture of an animal.

False. Abstract art focuses on the feeling and the visual elements rather than trying to hide pictures of objects.

What is 'contrast' in art?

The use of opposite elements, such as light versus dark colours or sharp lines versus soft curves, to create visual interest.