

Autumnal Artistry with Zara

Learning objective: To explore colour theory and texture by observing the natural changes in the landscape during the autumn season.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of colour mixing and observational art to provide detailed answers. Remember to use artistic vocabulary to describe your ideas.

Zara the zebra is heading out into the woods to sketch the changing leaves. Autumn is the perfect time to experiment with colour mixing, as the trees shift from deep greens to vibrant oranges, golds, and russet reds. By observing the patterns in nature, we can create art that captures the crisp feeling of the season.

Word bank: warm colours · texture · contrasting · primary · secondary · pigment · blending · translucent

1. Zara wants to mix a perfect 'autumnal orange' for her painting. Which two primary colours does she need to combine to create this secondary colour? (2 marks)

2. Explain how you could use 'texture' to make a drawing of a fallen leaf look realistic. What kind of lines or marks would you use? (2 marks)

3. If Zara wants her painting to have 'contrast', what kind of background colour should she choose to make her bright yellow leaves stand out? (2 marks)

4. Define what 'warm colours' are and list three examples found in nature during the autumn months. (3 marks)

5. How does the light change in autumn compared to summer, and how might this affect the way you choose the colours for your artwork? (2 marks)

Draw: Find a leaf or a twig from outside. In the space below, create a detailed observational sketch. Focus on the veins of the leaf or the rough texture of the bark. Use shading to show where the light hits the object.



Extension challenge: Research the work of an artist known for landscape painting. Write a short paragraph explaining how they use light and colour to show the change of seasons in their work.