

Festive Patterns and Colour Harmonies with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To explore the use of colour theory and symmetrical patterns to create intricate, festive-themed artwork.

Read the prompts carefully and apply your knowledge of colour wheels and geometric design to complete the tasks.

Zara the Zebra loves to look at the world through a creative lens. As the winter season approaches, she is busy designing decorations. She uses symmetry—where one side is a mirror image of the other—to create balanced patterns. By mixing colours, she creates tints and shades that capture the magic of the season, carefully choosing between warm tones to suggest cosiness or cool tones to represent the crispness of winter ice.

Word bank: complementary · symmetry · tint · shade · warm palette · geometric · pigment · festive

1. Zara wants to use a 'complementary' colour scheme for her festive card. If she chooses a vibrant red for the main design, which colour should she use for the background to make it stand out? Explain your choice. (2 marks)

2. Define the term 'symmetry' in the context of creating a snowflake design. Why is it important to ensure the design is balanced? (2 marks)

3. How can you transform a primary colour into a 'tint'? Describe the process and how the mood of your artwork might change as a result. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast a 'warm palette' and a 'cool palette'. Justify why an artist might choose a cool palette for a winter landscape scene. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if you were to overlap two primary colours on your paper before they had fully dried? Explain the scientific effect this has on the colour pigment. (2 marks)

6. If you were designing a festive bauble, how would you use geometric shapes to create a repeating pattern that incorporates rotational symmetry? (2 marks)

Draw: Using a ruler and a pencil, draw a large snowflake in the centre of your page. Ensure your design demonstrates bilateral symmetry. Once finished, colour one half of the snowflake using only cool tones and the other half using only warm tones to show the contrast in temperature.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an art critic visiting Zara's festive gallery. Write a short paragraph evaluating why the use of pattern and colour is essential in festive art. Use at least four words from the word bank in your response.