

Festive Patterns and Colour Theory with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To explore the use of complementary colours, symmetry, and repeating patterns to create traditional Christmas-themed artworks.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of colour theory and pattern design to answer. Zara the Zebra wants you to use your artistic eye to make these festive decorations shine!

Word bank: Symmetry · Complementary colours · Tessellation · Primary colours · Contrast · Warm tones

1. Zara is designing a snowflake. If she wants the snowflake to have perfect symmetry, what must she ensure happens on both sides of the central line? (2 marks)

2. Identify two pairs of complementary colours that would make a Christmas bauble stand out against a dark green pine tree. Explain why these colours create a strong visual effect. (3 marks)

3. If a pack of 50 gold star stickers costs £4.50, calculate the cost of one star. Zara needs 100 stars for her art project; how much will she spend in total? (3 marks)

4. Define 'tessellation' and describe how you could use this technique to create a repeating pattern for festive wrapping paper. (3 marks)

5. Why do artists often use 'warm tones' like red, orange, and gold when creating winter-themed art? How do these colours make the viewer feel? (2 marks)

Draw: Using a ruler to help with symmetry, draw a festive pattern that uses a tessellating shape (such as a hexagon or a star). Incorporate at least one pair of complementary colours to create high contrast.



Extension challenge: Research how different cultures create patterns for winter celebrations. Write a short paragraph explaining how a pattern from another culture differs from traditional British Christmas patterns, such as those found on a tartan or a bauble.