

Zara's Colour Theory Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the colour wheel, primary and secondary colours, and how colours interact to create mood and harmony.

Help Zara the zebra complete her masterpiece by answering these questions about colour theory. Read each question carefully and select or write the correct answer.

Answer Key: 1. A (Primary); 2. B (Green, Orange, Purple); 3. True; 4. False; 5. Secondary; 6. False; 7. Complementary; 8. Shade; 9. Warm; 10. Hue. Explanations: 1. Red, yellow, and blue cannot be made by mixing. 2. Secondary colours are created by mixing two primary colours. 3. Complementary colours are opposite on the wheel. 4. A tint is white added to a colour. 5. Mixing blue and yellow makes green. 6. Adding black creates a shade, not a tint. 7. Complementary colours create high contrast. 8. A shade is darker. 9. Warm colours include red, orange, and yellow. 10. Hue is the technical term for a pure colour.

Word bank: Primary · Secondary · Tertiary · Complementary · Warm · Cool · Hue · Saturation · Tint · Shade

1. Which group of colours cannot be created by mixing other colours together? A) Primary*, B) Secondary, C) Neutral, D) Pastel (1 mark)

2. Which of these are the three secondary colours? A) Red, Blue, Yellow, B) Green, Orange, Purple*, C) Pink, Brown, Grey, D) Black, White, Gold (1 mark)

3. True or False: Complementary colours are found directly opposite each other on the colour wheel. (1 mark)

4. True or False: Adding white to a colour creates a darker shade. (1 mark)

5. What is the name for a colour created by mixing two primary colours together? (1 mark)

6. If you mix blue and yellow, what colour do you get? (1 mark)

7. Which type of colour scheme uses colours that are opposite on the wheel to create high contrast? A) Monochromatic, B) Analogous, C) Complementary*, D) Primary (1 mark)

8. What do we call a colour that has had black added to it to make it darker? (1 mark)

9. Are red, orange, and yellow considered 'warm' or 'cool' colours? (1 mark)

10. What is the correct term for the 'name' of a pure colour, such as red or blue? (1 mark)

Draw: Zara wants to paint a landscape of her savannah home. Create a drawing using only 'cool' colours for the sky and 'warm' colours for the ground. Explain why your choice of colours changes the 'mood' of your artwork.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why an artist might choose to use complementary colours in a painting intended to capture the viewer's attention. 2. Compare and contrast how a room would 'feel' if it were painted entirely in tints versus entirely in shades. 3. Justify your answer: Does colour theory work the same way with light as it does with paint? Explain your reasoning. 4. What might happen if an artist only ever used primary colours in their work? 5. If you were designing a poster for a summer festival, which colour palette would you choose and why? 6. Analyse a piece of art you admire: identify the dominant hue and describe how the artist has used saturation to create a focal point.