

Zara's Colour Theory Masterclass

Learning objective: To understand and apply the principles of primary, secondary, and complementary colours in artistic compositions.

Welcome, young artist! Zara the Zebra has been busy in her studio and needs your help to organise her colour palette. Use this template to explore how colours interact. Read each section carefully and provide detailed explanations to show your understanding of colour theory. Remember to use accurate terminology when describing your artistic choices.

Word bank: Primary · Secondary · Complementary · Hue · Intensity · Pigment · Contrast · Vibrant · Muted

1. Primary Colours: List the three primary colours and explain why they are the foundation for all other colours in an artist's palette. (3 marks)

2. Secondary Colour Synthesis: Describe the process of creating secondary colours. Choose one secondary colour and justify which two primary colours are required to produce it. (3 marks)

3. Complementary Contrast: Define what is meant by 'complementary colours'. Explain why an artist might choose to place two complementary colours next to one another in a painting. (4 marks)

4. Analysing Intensity: Compare and contrast a 'vibrant' colour scheme with a 'muted' colour scheme. How does the choice of intensity change the mood of a piece of artwork? (4 marks)

5. Justification of Style: If you were painting a scene to represent a 'stormy day', which colour palette would you select and why? Justify your answer using colour theory. (4 marks)

6. Predictive Thinking: What might happen to the visual balance of a painting if an artist used only primary colours compared to using a mix of primary and secondary colours? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Creative Challenge: Design a colour wheel featuring six distinct segments. In each segment, write the name of the colour and one emotion or feeling you associate with it. Below your wheel, write a short paragraph explaining how you would use these colours to evoke a specific feeling in an audience.