

Zara's Colour Theory Masterclass

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

Use your knowledge of the colour wheel to solve these artistic challenges. Refer to the word bank to ensure you are using the correct terminology for your explanations.

Word bank: Primary · Secondary · Complementary · Hue · Tint · Shade · Intensity · Contrast

1. Zara is painting a sunset using only primary colours. Identify the three primary colours she must use and explain why they are called 'primary'. (2 marks)

2. If Zara mixes equal parts of blue and yellow paint, what secondary colour will she create? Describe how you would turn this new colour into a lighter tint. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast 'complementary' colours with 'analogous' colours. Why might an artist choose to place complementary colours next to each other in a painting? (3 marks)

4. Explain why adding black to a bright red hue changes its 'intensity'. What is the technical term for the resulting colour? (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If you were painting a picture meant to look very calm and peaceful, would you choose complementary colours or shades of a single colour? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Create a colour wheel in your sketchbook, but instead of using standard shapes, design a pattern inspired by Zara the zebra's stripes. Label each section with its correct name (Primary or Secondary) and identify one pair of complementary colours using arrows.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an art critic. Write a short paragraph describing a painting that uses high-contrast colours. What might happen to the mood of the piece if you replaced those vivid colours with muted, neutral tones? Use at least four words from the word bank in your response.