

Zara's Colour Theory Masterclass

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

Zara the zebra sees patterns and colours everywhere! She needs your help to organise her art studio. Use the colour wheel concepts to complete the tasks below. You will need to identify how colours interact when mixed and how they sit opposite each other on the colour wheel.

Word bank: Primary · Secondary · Complementary · Mixing · Hue · Contrast

1. Zara is mixing paint. If she mixes two primary colours, red and yellow, what secondary colour will she create? Explain why this happens. (2 marks)

2. Identify which colour is the 'complementary' (opposite) colour to blue on the colour wheel. How does placing these two colours side-by-side affect the brightness of the artwork? (2 marks)

3. List the three primary colours. Why are these colours considered the 'building blocks' of all other colours in art? (2 marks)

4. If Zara wants to make a painting look calm and peaceful, should she choose colours that are next to each other on the wheel or colours that are opposite? Give a reason for your choice. (2 marks)

5. True or False: Mixing all three primary colours together creates a bright, new colour. Explain the result you would expect to see. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a colour wheel in the shape of a flower. Use the six petals to show the three primary colours (Red, Yellow, Blue) and the three secondary colours (Orange, Green, Purple) created by mixing them. Label each petal clearly.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an interior designer. Create a colour palette for a new room using only complementary colours. Write a short explanation of why these two colours work well together to create a bold, eye-catching space.