

Zara's Abstract Symphony: Exploring Kandinsky's Patterns

Learning objective: To understand Wassily Kandinsky's use of colour, shape, and rhythm to represent music in visual art.

Zara the zebra is inspired by the way Wassily Kandinsky used geometric shapes to 'paint' sound. Below is a list of artistic elements. Your task is to act as an art critic and design a composition based on these instructions. Choose three shapes and three colours from the word bank to create a rhythmic pattern. Then, answer the analytical questions to explain the reasoning behind your artistic choices.

Word bank: Circle · Triangle · Rectangle · Square · Primary colours · Secondary colours · Overlap · Rhythm · Texture · Harmony · Contrast

1. Explain why you chose specific colours to represent a loud, booming sound compared to a quiet, soft sound. Justify your colour palette. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast how overlapping shapes creates more visual interest than placing shapes side-by-side. What is the effect on the viewer? (3 marks)

3. If you were to add a 'staccato' (short, sharp) sound to your artwork, which geometric shape would you use and why? (2 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Does a painting need to look like a real-world object to be considered 'beautiful'? Provide a reason for your opinion. (3 marks)

5. What might happen to the 'rhythm' of your painting if you used only one size of shape throughout the entire composition? (2 marks)

6. If your artwork cost £15.00 to frame and you sold it for £25.50, calculate the profit. Why might an artist need to consider the cost of materials? (2 marks)

Draw: Using your chosen shapes and colours, create a 'Musical Map' on a blank sheet of paper. Imagine your pen is dancing to a piece of music. Use lines to connect your shapes to show the flow of the melody, ensuring you include at least one instance of overlapping to create a sense of depth.



Extension challenge: Research a piece of classical music and create a second composition. Write a short paragraph explaining how the tempo (speed) of the music influenced the size and spacing of your shapes.