

Exploring Abstract Art with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the abstract art style of Wassily Kandinsky, focusing on the use of shape, colour, and the connection between music and visual art.

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of Wassily Kandinsky's artistic style to provide detailed answers. Zara the Zebra is excited to see your creative thinking!

Wassily Kandinsky was a pioneer of abstract art. He believed that colours and shapes could express feelings and represent sounds. He often painted using circles, triangles, and squares to create a sense of harmony on the canvas. He was fascinated by the idea of 'synaesthesia', where he felt he could 'hear' colours as if they were musical notes.

Word bank: Abstract · Composition · Synaesthesia · Geometric · Primary colours · Emotion

1. Kandinsky was famous for painting 'abstract' art. In your own words, explain what it means when a painting does not look exactly like a real-life object. (2 marks)

2. Look at a typical Kandinsky composition. List three geometric shapes he often used and explain why he might have chosen them to create balance. (3 marks)

3. Kandinsky often associated colours with specific musical instruments or sounds. If you were painting a 'loud' or 'energetic' piece of music, which colours would you choose and why? (2 marks)

4. Why is Kandinsky's work considered different from a traditional portrait or a landscape painting? (2 marks)

5. Zara the Zebra wants to create a piece of art that shows 'happiness'. Based on your knowledge of Kandinsky, how could she use line and colour to represent this emotion without drawing a face? (2 marks)

Draw: Using a ruler and a compass, create your own Kandinsky-inspired 'Composition'. Focus on using overlapping circles, intersecting lines, and a bold colour palette to show a musical rhythm.



Extension challenge: Research the term 'Synaesthesia'. Write a short paragraph explaining how this neurological condition influenced the way Kandinsky created his masterpieces.