

Zara's Pattern Masterclass

Learning objective: To identify and define key terms relating to patterns and geometric design in art.

Read each card to test your knowledge of patterns. Zara the zebra loves spotting these in nature and art! Use these to revise for our upcoming unit on pattern design.

What is a Motif?

A single design element or shape that is repeated to create a larger pattern.

Define a Repeating Pattern.

A pattern where a motif or design is copied and placed in a sequence across a surface.

What does Symmetry mean in art?

When an image or pattern is the same on both sides of a central line, as if reflected in a mirror.

Describe a Geometric pattern.

A pattern made using precise shapes like circles, squares, triangles, and lines that follow mathematical rules.

What is an Organic pattern?

A pattern inspired by nature, using curved, flowing, or irregular shapes like leaves, waves, or shells.

What is Tessellation?

A pattern made of shapes that fit together perfectly without any gaps or overlaps, like tiles on a floor.

What is Reflection in pattern design?

A type of symmetry where a shape is flipped over an axis to create a mirror image.

What is Rotation in a pattern?

When a motif is turned or spun around a central point to create a radial design.

What is a Border pattern?

A decorative design that runs along the edge of a surface, often using a repeating motif.

Why do artists use contrast in patterns?

To make a pattern stand out by using opposite colours or different sized shapes side-by-side.

What is an Alternating pattern?

A pattern that uses two or more different motifs that take turns appearing in a sequence.

What is a Fractal?

A complex pattern that repeats itself at different scales, often found in nature like in snowflakes or ferns.