

Patterns in Art with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and create complex patterns using geometric shapes, symmetry, and repetition.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of artistic patterns to provide detailed answers. Remember to show your working for any calculations involving shape arrangements.

Zara the Zebra is painting a new mural for the BookFlik library. She uses her keen eye for design to create patterns that repeat, rotate, and reflect to make the walls look vibrant and organised.

Word bank: Symmetry · Tessellation · Geometric · Motif · Repetition · Asymmetrical · Organic · Radial

1. Zara is designing a border using a repeating 'motif'. Define what a 'motif' is in art and explain why it is important when creating a pattern. (2 marks)

2. Look at a standard honeycomb. Explain why this is an example of 'tessellation' and describe what happens to the shapes when they are fitted together. (2 marks)

3. If Zara creates a pattern that is perfectly 'symmetrical', what does that mean for the left side of the artwork compared to the right side? (2 marks)

4. Zara wants to buy 12 square tiles to create a pattern. If each tile costs 85p, what is the total cost? Show your calculation. (2 marks)

5. Compare an 'organic' pattern found in nature (like leaves or clouds) to a 'geometric' pattern found in architecture. What is the main difference in the lines they use? (2 marks)

Draw: In the space below, create your own repeating pattern using at least two different geometric shapes. Ensure your pattern shows evidence of 'translation' (sliding the shape to repeat it) and use at least three contrasting colours.



Extension challenge: Research a cultural art style that uses complex patterns, such as Islamic geometric art or William Morris wallpaper designs. Write two sentences explaining how they use repetition to fill a space.