

Zara's Post-Impressionist Patterns: Exploring Vincent van Gogh

Learning objective: To analyse the artistic techniques of Vincent van Gogh, specifically his use of impasto, colour, and movement, and apply these to create an original artwork.

Zara the zebra loves patterns and bold colours! She has been studying the work of Vincent van Gogh. Read the descriptions of his techniques below. Match each description to the correct technical term from the word bank. Then, use the techniques to create your own masterpiece.

Word bank: Impasto · Complementary Colours · Movement · Tonal Contrast · Brushstrokes

1. 1. This technique involves applying paint so thickly that it stands out from the canvas, giving the painting a textured, 3D effect. (2 marks)

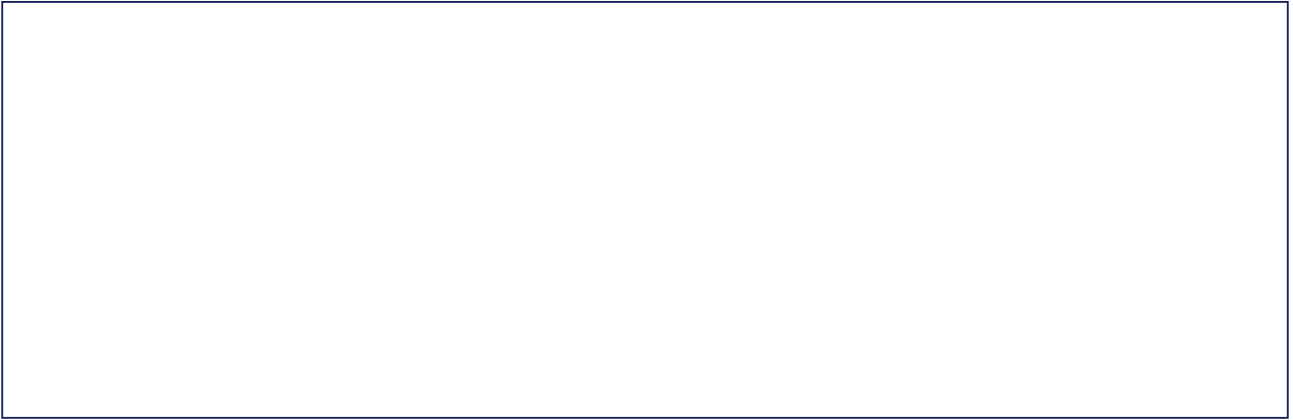
2. 2. Van Gogh often used pairs of colours like blue and orange, or yellow and purple, to make his paintings look brighter and more vibrant. What is this term? (2 marks)

3. 3. Van Gogh used swirling, rhythmic lines to make his paintings look like they are flowing or blowing in the wind. What element of art is he creating? (2 marks)

4. 4. Vincent often used short, dash-like marks of paint rather than blending them smoothly. What are these called? (2 marks)

5. 5. Why do you think Van Gogh chose to use such bright, bold colours instead of trying to make his paintings look exactly like a photograph? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Using a piece of paper, draw a simple landscape (like a tree or a house). Apply the 'Impasto' technique by layering your pencils or paints thickly. Use 'Complementary Colours' (e.g., a yellow sun in a violet sky) and ensure your lines show 'Movement' like the swirling clouds in 'The Starry Night'.



Extension challenge: Research how much a painting might cost today. If you were an art collector, would you spend £1,000,000 on a Van Gogh masterpiece? Write a short argument explaining why his work is considered so valuable to art history.