

Artist Study: Vincent van Gogh with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To analyse the artistic style and techniques of Vincent van Gogh and reflect on his use of colour and movement.

Zara the Zebra is visiting the gallery to learn about Vincent van Gogh. Use this fact-file template to record your findings about the artist. Research his famous works, focusing on how he used bold colours and thick brushstrokes to express his emotions. Write clearly and use evidence from his paintings to support your answers.

Word bank: Post-Impressionism · impasto · brushstrokes · vibrant · emotion · perspective · canvas · technique

1. Early Life and Inspiration: Write about where Van Gogh was born and what inspired him to start painting later in his life. (2 marks)

2. The Impasto Technique: Explain what 'impasto' is. How does this technique change the way a painting looks and feels? (3 marks)

3. Colour Palette: Describe the colours Van Gogh often used. Why do you think he chose these specific colours for his work? (2 marks)

4. Analysing a Masterpiece: Choose one of Van Gogh's paintings. Describe the mood of the piece and explain why the artist might have used swirling lines. (3 marks)

5. Personal Reflection: If you were to paint a scene from your own life in the style of Van Gogh, what colours and brushstrokes would you use and why? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Zara the Zebra wants to see your skills! Create your own mini-masterpiece in a square box below the questions. Try to use short, thick, rhythmic brushstrokes and at least three vibrant colours to show movement in your scene.