

Watercolour Wonders with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the properties of watercolour paint and apply techniques such as 'wet-on-wet' and 'wet-on-dry' to create texture and tone.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of painting techniques to answer. Zara the Zebra is looking forward to seeing how you use your brushes!

Word bank: Pigment · Wash · Transparency · Dilute · Bleed · Consistency

1. Zara wants to create a very pale, light blue sky. Explain how she should adjust the consistency of her paint to achieve this effect. (2 marks)

2. Describe the 'wet-on-wet' technique. Why might an artist choose to use this method when painting a background? (2 marks)

3. If you paint a sharp, defined edge for a tree trunk, should you use the 'wet-on-dry' or 'wet-on-wet' technique? Explain why. (2 marks)

4. What happens to the colours on your paper if you add too much water to your brush compared to the amount of paint pigment? (1 mark)

5. Zara is painting a sunset. She wants the orange and yellow to blend together smoothly. What is one tip she should follow to ensure the colours merge well? (2 marks)

Draw: Using your watercolour set, create a landscape that features a mountain range. Use a 'wash' technique for the sky and try to use 'wet-on-dry' to add darker, detailed shadows to the mountains once the first layer is dry.



Extension challenge: Research how artists use salt on wet watercolour paint to create interesting patterns. Try this technique on a scrap piece of paper and write one sentence explaining the effect it creates.