

Exploring the World of Abstract Art with Zara

Learning objective: To understand the principles of abstract art by exploring shape, color, and texture, and to apply these to create a non-representational composition.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of Zara the zebra's artistic style to answer the questions. Think about how artists use elements of art to convey feelings rather than realistic images.

Word bank: Abstract · Composition · Geometric · Organic · Texture · Contrast · Hue · Expression

1. Zara the zebra loves to paint emotions. Define 'Abstract Art' in your own words. Why might an artist choose to paint an emotion rather than a realistic person or place? (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast 'geometric shapes' (like squares and triangles) with 'organic shapes' (like swirls or blobs found in nature). How does using one or the other change the 'mood' of an artwork? (2 marks)

3. Explain why an artist might choose to use a 'clashing' color palette in an abstract piece. What feeling might this create for the viewer? (2 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If you wanted to create a calm piece of abstract art, would you use sharp, jagged lines or soft, flowing curves? Explain your reasoning using artistic vocabulary. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if an artist removed all color from an abstract painting and only used black, white, and grey? How would this affect the impact of the shapes used? (2 marks)

Draw: Imagine a piece of music that sounds like a thunderstorm. Using your pencil, create an abstract composition that represents the sound and feeling of that storm. Use at least three different types of lines and three different shapes.



Extension challenge: Research a famous abstract artist (such as Wassily Kandinsky or Piet Mondrian). Write a short paragraph explaining how their work differs from a realistic portrait. Can you create a second drawing in the style of the artist you researched?