

Zara's Color Theory Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the color wheel, primary and secondary colors, and how colors interact to create mood and harmony.

Help Zara the zebra complete her masterpiece by answering these questions about color theory. Read each question carefully and select or write the correct answer.

Answer Key: 1. A (Primary); 2. B (Green, Orange, Purple); 3. True; 4. False; 5. Secondary; 6. False; 7. Complementary; 8. Shade; 9. Warm; 10. Hue. Explanations: 1. Red, yellow, and blue cannot be made by mixing. 2. Secondary colors are created by mixing two primary colors. 3. Complementary colors are opposite on the wheel. 4. A tint is white added to a color. 5. Mixing blue and yellow makes green. 6. Adding black creates a shade, not a tint. 7. Complementary colors create high contrast. 8. A shade is darker. 9. Warm colors include red, orange, and yellow. 10. Hue is the technical term for a pure color.

Word bank: Primary · Secondary · Tertiary · Complementary · Warm · Cool · Hue · Saturation · Tint · Shade

1. Which group of colors cannot be created by mixing other colors together? A) Primary*, B) Secondary, C) Neutral, D) Pastel (1 mark)

2. Which of these are the three secondary colors? A) Red, Blue, Yellow, B) Green, Orange, Purple*, C) Pink, Brown, Grey, D) Black, White, Gold (1 mark)

3. True or False: Complementary colors are found directly opposite each other on the color wheel. (1 mark)

4. True or False: Adding white to a color creates a darker shade. (1 mark)

5. What is the name for a color created by mixing two primary colors together? (1 mark)

6. If you mix blue and yellow, what color do you get? (1 mark)

7. Which type of color scheme uses colors that are opposite on the wheel to create high contrast? A) Monochromatic, B) Analogous, C) Complementary*, D) Primary (1 mark)

8. What do we call a color that has had black added to it to make it darker? (1 mark)

9. Are red, orange, and yellow considered 'warm' or 'cool' colors? (1 mark)

10. What is the correct term for the 'name' of a pure color, such as red or blue? (1 mark)

Draw: Zara wants to paint a landscape of her savannah home. Create a drawing using only 'cool' colors for the sky and 'warm' colors for the ground. Explain why your choice of colors changes the 'mood' of your artwork.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why an artist might choose to use complementary colors in a painting intended to capture the viewer's attention. 2. Compare and contrast how a room would 'feel' if it were painted entirely in tints versus entirely in shades. 3. Justify your answer: Does color theory work the same way with light as it does with paint? Explain your reasoning. 4. What might happen if an artist only ever used primary colors in their work? 5. If you were designing a poster for a summer festival, which color palette would you choose and why? 6. Analyze a piece of art you admire: identify the dominant hue and describe how the artist has used saturation to create a focal point.