

Zara's Color Theory Masterclass

Learning objective: To understand and apply the principles of primary, secondary, and complementary colors to create balanced artistic compositions.

Zara the zebra sees patterns and colors everywhere! She needs your help to organize her art studio. Use the color wheel concepts to complete the tasks below. You will need to identify how colors interact when mixed and how they sit opposite each other on the color wheel.

Word bank: Primary · Secondary · Complementary · Mixing · Hue · Contrast

1. Zara is mixing paint. If she mixes two primary colors, red and yellow, what secondary color will she create? Explain why this happens. (2 marks)

2. Identify which color is the 'complementary' (opposite) color to blue on the color wheel. How does placing these two colors side-by-side affect the brightness of the artwork? (2 marks)

3. List the three primary colors. Why are these colors considered the 'building blocks' of all other colors in art? (2 marks)

4. If Zara wants to make a painting look calm and peaceful, should she choose colors that are next to each other on the wheel or colors that are opposite? Give a reason for your choice. (2 marks)

5. True or False: Mixing all three primary colors together creates a bright, new color. Explain the result you would expect to see. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a color wheel in the shape of a flower. Use the six petals to show the three primary colors (Red, Yellow, Blue) and the three secondary colors (Orange, Green, Purple) created by mixing them. Label each petal clearly.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an interior designer. Create a color palette for a new room using only complementary colors. Write a short explanation of why these two colors work well together to create a bold, eye-catching space.