Zara’s Swirly Sky Art Studio

Learning objective: To explore the painting techniques of Vincent van Gogh, focusing on colour, texture, and pattern.

Zara the zebra has been looking at the famous 'Starry Night' painting. She noticed that the artist used thick, swirling lines to make his painting look like it was moving. Look at the patterns below. Use your crayons or paint to copy the swirling shapes and bright colours onto the blank canvas box. Try to make your lines look like rolling waves or spinning stars!

Word bank: swirl · thick · bright · pattern · star · colour

1. Zara used bright yellow for the stars. Can you name two other colours you see in the night sky? (2 marks)

2. When we paint with 'thick' paint, it leaves a texture. How does the paint feel on the paper when it is dry? (2 marks)

3. Look at the patterns in the box. Can you draw a 'swirl' shape that looks like a spinning star? (2 marks)

4. If you were painting a picture of the night sky, would you choose dark colours or bright colours? (2 marks)

5. Vincent van Gogh liked to paint outside. Where would you go to paint a picture of nature? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a big yellow moon and lots of swirling blue lines in the sky, just like in Zara's favourite painting.

Extension challenge: Find some leaves or twigs in the garden. Dip them in paint and press them onto paper to see what patterns they make. Is it a swirl or a shape?