Zara’s Starry Night Discovery

Learning objective: To explore the artistic style of Vincent van Gogh, focusing on how he used swirling lines and bright colours to show how he felt.

Look at the patterns and colours on the page. Answer the questions about how artists use their brushes to make beautiful pictures, then have a go at creating your own masterpiece!

Vincent van Gogh was an artist who loved to paint outside. He used thick, wavy lines called 'swirls' to make his paintings look like they were moving. He often painted bright yellow stars against a deep blue night sky to show how big and exciting the world looked to him.

Word bank: swirls · yellow · blue · paint · brush · night · stars

1. Zara the zebra loves bright colours! Which two colours did Vincent van Gogh use to paint his famous starry night sky? (2 marks)

2. Instead of straight lines, what special shape did the artist use to make his sky look like it was moving? (1 mark)

3. If you were painting a night sky, what colours would you pick for your stars? (1 mark)

4. Vincent van Gogh liked to paint outside. Where would you go to find a beautiful view to paint? (2 marks)

5. When we paint, we use a brush. How do you feel when you use different colours to make art? (2 marks)

Draw: Using a yellow crayon or pencil, draw big, swirling stars in the sky. Then, use a blue crayon to make wavy lines all around them, just like Vincent van Gogh!

Extension challenge: Find a partner and look at your drawings together. Can you point to where you used 'swirls'? Tell your partner one reason why you chose the colours you used.