

Zara's Autumnal Palette: Exploring Texture and Tone

Learning objective: To explore the use of colour theory and texture in autumnal art, specifically focusing on how to mix secondary colours and apply techniques to represent natural forms.

Zara the zebra is preparing for an autumn art exhibition. To help her, complete the activities below by experimenting with colour mixing and describing how you would use different materials to create the textures of the season. Use the word bank to help you express your artistic choices.

Word bank: ochre · crimson · amber · texture · pigment · contrast · composition · secondary · blending · hues

1. Zara wants to paint a forest floor. Explain why using a mixture of primary colours (red, yellow, blue) to create secondary colours like orange and green is more effective than using paint straight from the tube. Justify your answer using the term 'hues'. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the textures of a dry, brittle autumn leaf and a smooth, damp conker. Which art medium (e.g. pastels, watercolours, or charcoal) would you choose for each, and why? (3 marks)

3. If you were to create a 'warm' autumnal composition, which colours would you prioritise? Explain why these colours evoke the feeling of the season. (2 marks)

4. What might happen to the overall visual impact of your artwork if you used only 'cool' colours to depict an autumn scene? How would this change the viewer's perception of the season? (3 marks)

5. Zara is selling her art prints for £12.50 each. If she sells 8 prints to raise money for a local nature reserve, how much money will she have collected in total? Show your calculation. (2 marks)

6. Justify your choice of background colour for an autumn-themed portrait. How does 'contrast' play a role in making your main subject stand out? (2 marks)

Draw: Create a detailed sketch of an autumn scene focusing on 'tactile texture'. Use cross-hatching to show the veins of a leaf and stippling to represent the rough exterior of a seed pod or acorn shell.



Extension challenge: Research the work of a landscape artist who focuses on seasonal change. Write a short critique of their use of 'ochre' and 'crimson' tones. How do they lead the viewer's eye across the page using composition?