

Zara's Festive Art & Design Challenge

Learning objective: To explore traditional and contemporary festive artistic techniques, focusing on composition, pattern, and the use of symmetry in seasonal design.

Join Zara the Zebra as she explores how artists use pattern, light, and colour to celebrate the season. Read the clues carefully and test your artistic knowledge!

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.A, 5.B, 6.Symmetry, 7.B, 8.True, 9.C, 10.Contrast. Extension: Encourage students to justify their aesthetic choices using vocabulary from the word bank.

Word bank: Symmetry · Negative space · Primary colours · Pattern · Texture · Contrast

1. 1. Zara is creating a paper snowflake. Which principle of design must she use to ensure it looks balanced? A) Asymmetry B) Texture C) Symmetry* D) Abstract (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Gold and silver are often used in festive art to reflect light and create a sense of 'shimmer' or 'sparkle'. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: 'Negative space' refers to the bright, colourful parts of a drawing that immediately catch the viewer's eye. (1 mark)

4. 4. Which colour combination is most traditionally associated with 'warm' festive art? A) Red and Gold* B) Blue and Grey C) Purple and Green D) Black and White (1 mark)

5. 5. If you want to make a festive wreath 'pop' against a white wall, which principle should you use? A) Monochromatic B) Contrast* C) Blending D) Fading (1 mark)

6. 6. What is the technical term for a repeated decorative design, such as those found on festive wrapping paper? (1 mark)

7. 7. When sketching a festive scene, which technique helps show that an object is far away? A) Using bright colours B) Diminishing scale* C) Using thick outlines D) Adding glitter (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: You can create 'texture' in a drawing by using different types of pencil strokes or hatching. (1 mark)

9. 9. Which medium is best for creating a 'stained glass' effect in festive art? A) Charcoal B) Clay C) Translucent tissue paper* D) Graphite pencil (1 mark)

10. 10. Which primary colour, when mixed with yellow, creates green for festive foliage? A) Red B) Black C) Blue* D) White (1 mark)

Draw: Zara invites you to design a festive bauble. Use a geometric pattern that relies on line symmetry and include at least two contrasting colours to make your design stand out.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why an artist might choose to use 'cool' colours for a winter landscape instead of 'warm' colours. 2. Compare and contrast the use of pattern in Victorian-style festive cards versus modern, minimalist festive designs. 3. Justify your choice of materials: if you were creating a 3D festive sculpture, would you choose clay or recycled card? Why? 4. What might happen to the balance of your snowflake design if you did not follow the principle of symmetry? 5. How does the use of metallic paints alter the way a viewer perceives light in an artwork? 6. Design a festive scene that incorporates 'negative space' to draw attention to a central figure.