

Collage Creations with Zara

Learning objective: To experiment with and combine a variety of media to create a textured collage, understanding the principles of layering, juxtaposition, and composition.

Zara the zebra invites you to become a collage artist! A collage is an artistic composition made by sticking various materials—such as paper, fabric, photographs, or natural objects—onto a backing surface. Your task is to plan and assemble a 'Texture Map' of a landscape. Follow the questions below to design your masterpiece, focusing on how different materials can represent the natural world.

Word bank: Juxtaposition · Composition · Texture · Opacity · Layering · Foreground · Background · Ephemeral

1. If you were creating a forest scene, justify your choice of material for the tree bark. Why would a rough, corrugated cardboard be more effective than a smooth, glossy magazine page? (2 marks)

2. Explain the concept of 'composition' in your collage. How does placing a large, dark object in the foreground change the viewer's perspective compared to placing it in the background? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the visual effect of using 'torn' paper edges versus 'cut' paper edges. What mood does each technique create? (2 marks)

4. What might happen to the depth of your image if you used only materials of the same colour? How does introducing a contrasting colour influence the focal point? (2 marks)

5. Zara wants to add a 'found object' (like a dried leaf or a button) to her collage. Why is it important to ensure the glue you use is suitable for the weight of the material? (2 marks)

6. Justify why overlapping different materials is essential for creating a professional-looking collage rather than simply placing items side-by-side. (2 marks)

Draw: Sketch a thumbnail layout for your 'Texture Map'. Use labels to indicate where you will place different materials (e.g., 'crinkled tissue paper for clouds', 'sandpaper for a rocky path', 'shiny foil for a river').



Extension challenge: Create a 'Mini-Masterpiece' collage using only recycled waste materials found at home or in the classroom. Once finished, write a short artist's statement explaining your choice of materials and the story your collage tells.