

Zara's Colour Theory Masterclass

Learning objective: To understand and apply the principles of the colour wheel, including primary, secondary, tertiary, and complementary colours.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of colour theory. Zara the Zebra suggests using these to create your own colour wheel masterpiece!

What are the three primary colours?

Red, yellow and blue. These cannot be made by mixing other colours together.

How do you create a secondary colour?

By mixing two primary colours together in equal parts (e.g., blue + yellow = green).

Name the three secondary colours.

Green, orange and purple (or violet).

What is a tertiary colour?

A colour created by mixing a primary colour with an adjacent secondary colour, such as blue-green or red-orange.

Define 'complementary colours'.

Colours that sit directly opposite each other on the colour wheel, such as blue and orange, which create high contrast.

What is the difference between a 'tint' and a 'shade'?

A tint is a colour mixed with white to make it lighter; a shade is a colour mixed with black to make it darker.

Which colours are classified as 'warm' colours?

Colours that evoke heat, such as reds, oranges and yellows.

Which colours are classified as 'cool' colours?

Colours that evoke calmness or cold, such as blues, greens and purples.

What is a 'neutral' colour?

Colours that do not appear on the colour wheel, such as black, white, grey, brown and beige.

Define the term 'hue'.

Hue is another word for a pure colour in its original state on the colour wheel.

Explain why artists use complementary colours in their paintings.

To create visual impact and make specific elements 'pop' or stand out due to the strong contrast.

What might happen if you mixed all three primary colours together?

You would create a muddy, neutral brown or grey colour.