

Zara's Colour Theory Masterclass

Learning objective: To identify and apply knowledge of the colour wheel, including primary, secondary, and complementary colours.

Join Zara the zebra on an artistic journey! Read each question carefully and select the best answer. Use your knowledge of the colour wheel to help you solve these creative puzzles.

Answer Key: 1. A (Primary); 2. True; 3. Secondary; 4. B (Orange); 5. False; 6. Complementary; 7. Warm; 8. C (Blue and Orange); 9. Hue; 10. True. Explanation for Q8: Complementary colours sit opposite each other on the colour wheel, creating the strongest visual contrast.

Word bank: Primary · Secondary · Tertiary · Complementary · Hue · Saturation · Warm · Cool

1. 1. Which group of colours cannot be made by mixing other colours together? A) Primary* B) Secondary C) Tertiary D) Neutral (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Mixing two primary colours creates a secondary colour. (1 mark)

3. 3. What type of colour is green produced by mixing blue and yellow? (1 mark)

4. 4. If you mix red and yellow, what secondary colour do you get? A) Purple B) Orange* C) Green D) Brown (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: Adding white to a colour makes it a shade. (1 mark)

6. 6. What term is used for colours that are directly opposite each other on the colour wheel? (1 mark)

7. 7. Are red, orange, and yellow considered warm or cool colours? (1 mark)

8. 8. Which pair represents complementary colours? A) Red and Blue B) Yellow and Green C) Blue and Orange* D) Red and Purple (1 mark)

9. 9. What is the technical name for the 'name' of a colour (e.g., red or blue)? (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: Blue, green, and purple are generally considered to be cool colours. (1 mark)

Draw: Create an abstract pattern using only complementary colours. Your design must demonstrate a high level of contrast and balance.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why an artist might choose to use only cool colours in a painting of a winter landscape. 2. Compare and contrast how warm and cool colours affect the mood of an observer. 3. Justify your answer: Does the placement of colours on a wheel change based on the medium used (e.g., paint vs. digital)? 4. What might happen if you mixed all three primary colours together in equal amounts? 5. If you were designing a poster to grab attention from a long distance, which colour scheme would you use and why? 6. Analyse the work of a famous artist—how have they used colour intensity to create a focal point in their composition?