

Zara's Colour Theory Masterclass

Learning objective: To understand and apply the principles of colour theory, including primary, secondary, and tertiary colours, and how they influence mood and composition.

Welcome to Zara the Zebra's art studio! As a zebra, I see the world in black and white, but I love exploring the vibrant spectrum of colour. Use this fact-file to document your understanding of colour theory. Refer to your colour wheel and experiment with mixing paints to complete the sections below.

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

1. Define the relationship between primary and secondary colours. Explain why mixing two primary colours results in a secondary colour. (4 marks)

2. Compare and contrast 'warm' colours and 'cool' colours. How might an artist use these to create a specific atmosphere in a landscape painting? (4 marks)

3. Justify why an artist might choose to use complementary colours when they want a specific part of their artwork to stand out to the viewer. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to your final image if you mixed a colour with its direct complement on the colour wheel? Describe the resulting hue. (3 marks)

5. Explain why light reflection is essential to our perception of colour. How does our eye distinguish between different wavelengths? (3 marks)

6. Critique your current art project: How have you applied colour theory to improve the focal point of your piece? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Design an original colour palette for a new piece of art. Justify your selection of five specific colours by explaining their psychological impact on the viewer and how they relate to one another on the colour wheel.