

Zara's Gallery of Greats: A Masterpiece Investigation

Learning objective: To analyse the techniques and artistic styles of historical painters and apply these concepts to original creative work.

Zara the zebra has been visiting the world's most famous galleries. Below is a list of artistic styles and techniques used by historical masters. Your task is to match these descriptions to the correct movement and then justify how these artists might have felt about their work. Use the word bank to help you identify the styles.

Word bank: Impressionism · Surrealism · Renaissance · Cubism · Post-Impressionism · Baroque

1. A style that focuses on capturing light and movement with quick, visible brushstrokes. Which movement is this, and why would an artist choose to paint outdoors to achieve this effect? (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the realistic, balanced proportions of the Renaissance with the fragmented, geometric shapes seen in Cubism. Which do you find more challenging to create and why? (2 marks)

3. Surrealism often uses dream-like imagery to surprise the viewer. Explain why an artist might choose to paint an object in a way that defies the laws of physics. (2 marks)

4. Post-Impressionism uses bold, expressive colours to show emotion rather than just reality. Justify why an artist might choose to use a 'clashing' colour palette in a portrait. (2 marks)

5. If a collector bought a piece of Baroque art for £4,500 and a piece of Cubist art for £2,750, what is the total value of their collection? Show your working out. (2 marks)

6. What might happen to the way we interpret a painting if the artist decided to hide a secret message within the background patterns? Give your opinion. (2 marks)

Draw: Using Zara's favourite technique, create a self-portrait that combines two different styles—for example, paint your face using the geometric shapes of Cubism, but use the light-filled, dappled brushstrokes of Impressionism for the background.



Extension challenge: Research a lesser-known artist from the 18th or 19th century. Write a short poem, in the style of Leo the lion, describing the atmosphere of their most famous painting.