

Zara's Autumnal Patterns: A Seasonal Art Challenge

Learning objective: To explore the use of colour, line, and pattern in autumnal and seasonal art, using contrast and composition to create mood.

Zara the zebra has been observing the changing colours and textures of the season. She wants you to act as a nature artist. Look at the questions below to develop your conceptual understanding of autumnal art, then follow the design brief to create your own piece. Focus on how warm and cool colours interact to create a sense of mystery.

Word bank: Contrast · Texture · Composition · Warmth · Symmetry · Atmosphere · Foreground · Background · Vibrant

1. Explain why an artist might choose a 'warm' colour palette (reds, oranges, yellows) when illustrating an autumn scene. How does this influence the viewer's mood? (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the effect of using fine, delicate lines versus thick, bold brushstrokes in a piece of seasonal art. (2 marks)

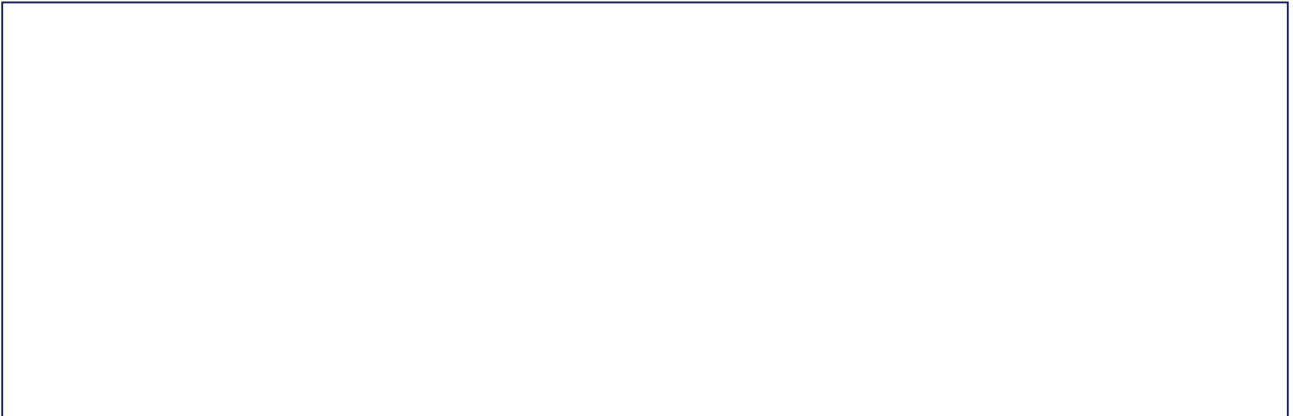
3. Justify your answer: If you were painting an autumnal forest, why is it important to consider the 'foreground' and 'background' when placing objects like fallen leaves or gnarled branches? (2 marks)

4. What might happen to the 'atmosphere' of your artwork if you used only shades of grey and black instead of vibrant autumn colours? (2 marks)

5. Identify two ways you could create 'texture' in your art without using special materials (e.g., through pencil marks or layering). (2 marks)

6. If you were commissioned to sell an original autumnal print for £12.50, what techniques would you use to ensure the composition captures the audience's attention instantly? (2 marks)

Draw: Create a design for an 'Autumnal Pattern' tile. Use Zara's love of stripes and patterns to incorporate natural elements like skeletal leaves, gnarled tree roots, and a rising moon. Focus on using high-contrast colours to make your design pop off the page.



Extension challenge: Design a series of three sketches that demonstrate the progression of autumn: from the first falling leaves to a barren, frost-covered landscape. Write a brief artist's statement (50 words) justifying your choice of colours and lines to represent this change.