

Year 5 Art Assessment: The Power of Pattern

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of pattern, symmetry, and repetition in visual arts, applying formal elements to design and analysis.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of Zara the Zebra's artistic techniques to explain how patterns are created and used in art and nature. Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided.

Zara the Zebra is famous for the intricate patterns found in her artwork. She believes that a pattern is not just a decoration, but a rhythm for the eyes. By repeating a single motif, an artist can create a sense of movement or calm. Zara often observes the natural world to find inspiration, noting how petals on a flower or the scales on a fish create complex, repeating designs that fit together perfectly.

Word bank: Symmetry · Tessellation · Motif · Geometric · Organic · Repetition · Contrast · Radial

1. Define the term 'motif' in the context of pattern design. Provide one example of a simple motif you might find in nature. (2 marks)

2. Explain the difference between a geometric pattern and an organic pattern. Use examples to justify your answer. (3 marks)

3. Look at a square tiling pattern on a floor. Why is this considered a 'tessellation'? Explain why a circle would not be able to tessellate in the same way. (4 marks)

4. Zara uses 'Radial Symmetry' in her mandala designs. Describe what radial symmetry looks like and how an artist achieves it. (3 marks)

5. If you were designing a pattern for a new school mural, how would you use 'contrast' to make your pattern stand out? Consider colour and shape in your explanation. (3 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Critically evaluate the role of pattern in the natural world. Why might animals, such as zebras or butterflies, benefit from having distinct patterns on their bodies? Consider camouflage, identification, and survival in your response. (5 marks)

7. If you doubled the size of a repeating motif within a fixed frame, what might happen to the overall visual impact of the pattern? Justify your prediction. (5 marks)

Draw: In the space below, design a border pattern that uses both a geometric motif and an organic motif. Ensure your pattern shows clear repetition and symmetry.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Creative Challenge: Design a 'Patterned Creature' that uses at least three different types of patterns (e.g., stripes, spots, and zig-zags) to help it blend into a specific environment of your choosing. Explain how your pattern choices help the creature survive.