Zara’s Cubist Portrait Workshop

Learning objective: To explore how artist Pablo Picasso used shapes and patterns to create portraits, and to experiment with representing features in a non-traditional way.

Zara the Zebra loves patterns and colours! Picasso was an artist who liked to mix up faces. Look at your own face in a mirror. Pick three shapes from the word bank to draw your eyes, nose, and mouth in different places on your page. Follow the questions below to build your own masterpiece.

Word bank: Triangle · Square · Circle · Rectangle · Diamond · Pattern · Colour

1. Pablo Picasso liked to use bright colours. If you were painting a happy face, which colours would you use and why? (2 marks)

2. Look at your portrait. Can you spot a triangle? Point to it and tell a partner where it is. (2 marks)

3. If you sold your beautiful painting in an art shop, would it cost £1 or £5? Why do you think so? (2 marks)

4. Picasso sometimes drew two eyes on the same side of the face. Does your portrait have eyes in the same place as your own face, or are they moved around? (2 marks)

5. Zara wants to add a pattern to your portrait. Where could you draw stripes or spots to make it more colourful? (2 marks)

Draw: Using a pencil, draw a large face shape. Now, use different coloured crayons to draw a square eye, a triangle nose, and a long rectangle mouth. Add colourful patterns like spots or stripes to the cheeks!

Extension challenge: Try to recreate your portrait using cut-out shapes from coloured paper. Glue them onto a piece of card to make a 3D collage!