

Exploring Cubism with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To analyse the artistic style of Pablo Picasso and apply Cubist techniques such as geometric fragmentation and multiple perspectives to a self-portrait.

Today, Zara the Zebra is inspired by the bold shapes of Pablo Picasso. Use your pencil and sketchbook to experiment with Cubism. Instead of drawing a realistic face, break your subject down into simple geometric shapes like triangles, squares, and circles. Remember, Picasso often showed the front and side of a face at the same time!

Draw: Create a Cubist-style self-portrait. Use a ruler to create sharp, angular lines across your page to create a 'shattered' look. In each section, draw a different part of your face, but shift the perspective—for example, draw a nose in profile while the mouth remains facing forward. Use bold, contrasting patterns inspired by Zara the Zebra's stripes to fill in the background planes.



Label words: Geometric · Perspective · Cubism · Fragmentation · Abstract · Asymmetry · Form · Plane

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw a face using only geometric shapes. Explain why you chose these specific shapes to represent facial features.
2. Step 2: Picasso often painted eyes at different angles. Draw one eye from the front and one from the side.

Compare and contrast how this changes the expression of your drawing.

3. Justify your answer: Why might an artist choose to paint an object in an abstract style rather than a realistic one?

4. What might happen if you used only primary colours to complete your Cubist portrait? Describe the visual impact.

5. Label your drawing by pointing to a 'fragmented plane' and a 'geometric shape' using your word bank.

6. Evaluate your work: How does the placement of your shapes affect the balance of the portrait?