

Exploring the Art of Pablo Picasso: A Masterclass with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the artistic evolution of Pablo Picasso, focusing on his contribution to Cubism and his unique use of perspective.

Zara the Zebra, our artistic guide, has put together these flashcards to help you explore the life and techniques of one of the 20th century's most influential artists. Use these to test your knowledge of his periods and styles.

Who was Pablo Picasso?

A prolific Spanish painter and sculptor who was a central figure in the development of 20th-century art.

What is 'Cubism'?

An artistic style that portrays subjects from multiple viewpoints simultaneously, using geometric shapes to break down objects.

Explain the 'Blue Period'.

A time in Picasso's career (1901–1904) where he primarily used shades of blue and green to express themes of sadness and poverty.

What defined the 'Rose Period'?

A period following his Blue Period where he used warmer colours like orange and pink, often depicting circus performers and harlequins.

Why did Picasso abandon traditional perspective?

He wanted to show the 'whole' of an object rather than just one side, allowing the viewer to see the subject from different angles at once.

What is a 'collage' in the context of Picasso?

A technique where Picasso glued various materials like newspaper, oilcloth, or wallpaper onto a canvas to create a new composition.

Compare and contrast the Blue Period and the Rose Period.

Both were emotional phases; the Blue Period focused on melancholy and cool tones, while the Rose Period focused on lighter, warmer themes and more optimistic subjects.

Justify why Picasso is considered a pioneer of modern art.

He challenged the 'rules' of art that had existed for centuries by reinventing how artists represent reality and emotion through abstraction.

What might happen if Picasso had never invented Cubism?

Modern art might have remained more representational, and we might not have seen the same influence of geometric abstraction in later design and architecture.

Describe the term 'Abstract' as it relates to Picasso's work.

Art that does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of visual reality, instead using shapes, colours, and forms to achieve its effect.

Explain the significance of the painting 'Guernica'.

It is a massive, black-and-white mural created to protest the horrors of war, using distorted figures to convey immense pain and chaos.

How did Picasso's childhood influence his skill?

He was a child prodigy who mastered realistic classical painting by age 13, which gave him the technical foundation to eventually break all the rules.