

Zara's Watercolour Exploration Journal

Learning objective: To experiment with and evaluate watercolour techniques, including washes, wet-on-wet, and colour blending.

Use this journal to record your discoveries while experimenting with watercolour paints. Zara the zebra wants you to observe how different amounts of water change the pigment of your paint and how colours interact on the paper. Work carefully, ensuring you rinse your brush thoroughly between colours to keep your palette clean.

Word bank: translucent · pigment · wash · wet-on-wet · saturation · blend · consistency · dilute

1. The Wash Technique: Describe the difference in appearance between a 'flat wash' and a 'graded wash'. Explain why adding more water to your brush changes the intensity of the colour. (4 marks)

2. Wet-on-Wet Observation: Explain what happens when you drop a new colour into a patch of paper that is already wet. Why might this technique be useful for painting a sky or a natural landscape? (3 marks)

3. Colour Theory: Select two primary colours. Describe the process of blending them to create a secondary colour. Justify why the order in which you apply them matters. (3 marks)

4. Control and Consistency: Compare and contrast working on dry paper versus damp paper. What might happen if you apply too much water to your page? (3 marks)

5. Self-Evaluation: Reflect on your control of the brush. Which technique did you find most challenging to master and why? (2 marks)

6. Creative Application: If you were to paint a portrait of Zara, how would you use water to create texture in her zebra stripes while keeping the background soft and translucent? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a small-scale watercolour study of a local landscape. Write a brief justification for the techniques you chose to use (e.g., why you used a wash for the sky but dry-brushing for the tree bark) and evaluate how the paper's texture influenced your final result.