Zara’s Colour Theory Masterclass

Learning objective: I can identify, mix, and apply colours using the colour wheel and theory concepts.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to look at the colours in your garden or a painting at home to identify complementary pairs.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of the colour wheel to determine how primary, secondary, and tertiary colours interact.

Example: If you mix a primary colour (red) with a secondary colour (orange), you create a tertiary colour (red-orange).

Word bank: Primary · Secondary · Tertiary · Complementary · Analogous · Hue · Tint · Shade

1. Zara is painting a sunset. She has red, blue, and yellow paint. Identify these three colours by their correct technical name. Why can she not create these colours by mixing others? (2 marks)

2. If Zara mixes equal parts of blue and yellow, what secondary colour does she create? What happens if she adds a large amount of white to this new colour? (2 marks)

3. Complementary colours sit directly opposite each other on the colour wheel. If Zara wants her painting of a bright orange fox to really stand out against the background, which colour should she use for the background? Explain your choice. (2 marks)

4. Define the term 'analogous colours'. Give an example of a three-colour analogous scheme Zara might use to paint a calm, peaceful woodland scene. (2 marks)

5. Zara wants to create a darker, moody atmosphere in her painting of an oak tree. Should she add black or white to her green paint to achieve this? What is the technical term for this technique? (2 marks)

Draw: An artist's palette with primary, secondary, and tertiary colours clearly segmented in a wheel format, sitting on a wooden studio table.

Extension challenge: Design a colour palette for a 'Winter Morning' and a 'Summer Seaside' scene. Explain why you chose your specific hues for each, referring to colour temperature (warm vs cool).

I did it! **Name: _____** **Date: _____**

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