Kandinsky: The Rhythm of Colour

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Ask your child which shape they think represents a 'happy' sound and which represents a 'sad' sound.

Follow Zara the Zebra's steps to create your own abstract masterpiece: 1. Listen to a piece of classical music and let the rhythm guide your brush. 2. Choose a primary colour to represent a specific sound. 3. Use geometric shapes to build your composition. Example: If the music sounds sharp like a trumpet, draw a jagged yellow triangle.

■ Kandinsky believed that certain colours could evoke specific musical sounds. If you were painting a 'loud' and 'bright' trumpet sound, which primary colour would you choose and why?

■ Abstract art does not show realistic objects. Describe how Kandinsky uses circles and lines to create a sense of movement in his paintings.

■ Look at a piece of Kandinsky's work. Identify two different geometric shapes he has used and explain how they balance the composition.

■ Think about the emotion behind a piece of music. How can changing the size of a shape on your canvas alter the 'volume' or intensity of your artwork?

■ Compare a realistic portrait of a badger to an abstract painting of the same animal. What visual elements would you need to remove to make the portrait abstract?

Did you know? Did you know? Wassily Kandinsky experienced 'synaesthesia', a condition where he could 'hear' colours and 'see' sounds! He believed that painting was like composing music on a canvas, using shapes as notes and colours as the melody.

Key vocabulary: Abstract · Composition · Geometric · Primary Colours · Rhythm