Kandinsky and the Rhythm of Colour

Learning objective: I can explore how Wassily Kandinsky used abstract shapes, lines, and colour to represent music and emotion.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to justify their creative choices by linking their colours and shapes to specific moods or sounds.

Read each question carefully. When asked to analyse or explain, ensure you refer to specific elements like shape, line, or colour. For practical tasks, think about how Kandinsky aimed to create a 'visual symphony'.

Word bank: Abstract · Composition · Geometric · Harmony · Synaesthesia

1. Wassily Kandinsky was interested in 'synaesthesia', a condition where people can 'hear' colours or 'see' sounds. If you were painting a sharp, high-pitched trumpet sound, which geometric shapes and colours would you choose? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

2. Look at a typical Kandinsky painting. Why do you think he preferred using abstract shapes (like circles, triangles, and lines) rather than painting realistic objects like a house or a tree? Give two reasons. (2 marks)

3. Kandinsky often used a 'colour theory' where different colours represented different emotions. If yellow is 'aggressive' and blue is 'peaceful', describe how you would arrange these two colours on a page to create a feeling of tension. (2 marks)

4. In his later works, Kandinsky often used black lines to connect floating shapes. What role do these lines play in guiding the viewer's eye across the composition? (2 marks)

5. Zara is creating an abstract piece inspired by the seaside. She wants to show the movement of waves using only lines and circles. Describe the type of lines she should draw to show the difference between a calm sea and a stormy one. (2 marks)

Draw: A vibrant abstract composition featuring overlapping geometric shapes, including concentric circles, jagged triangles, and sweeping black lines, inspired by the style of Wassily Kandinsky.

Extension challenge: Choose a favourite piece of music. On a piece of A4 paper, create an abstract 'visual score' of the first 30 seconds, using only three colours and three types of shapes to represent the rhythm and melody.



I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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