Patterns in Art: Mastering Visual Rhythm

Learning objective: I can identify and define key terms used to create complex patterns in art and design.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Ask your child to find examples of these patterns in nature while you are out for a walk in the park.

Read the term on the front of each card. Test your knowledge by defining the term on the back. For example, if the card says 'Symmetry', the answer is 'When a shape or pattern looks identical on both sides of a dividing line.'

Motif	Tessellation
A single design element or shape that is repeated to create a pattern.	A pattern made of shapes that fit together perfectly without any gaps or overlaps.
Symmetry	**Radial Symmetry**
When a design is balanced so that one side is a mirror image of the other.	A pattern that radiates outwards from a central point, like the petals of a daisy.
Geometric Pattern	**Organic Pattern**
A design based on mathematical shapes like squares, triangles, circles, or hexagons.	A design based on natural, flowing shapes found in plants, shells, or clouds.
Primary Colours	**Secondary Colours**
Red, yellow, and blue; colours that cannot be created by mixing others.	Colours created by mixing two primary colours (green, orange, and purple).
Negative Space	**Contrast**
The empty area around or between the subjects of an image.	The arrangement of opposite elements, such as light vs. dark or rough vs. smooth.