Patterns in the World Around Us

Learning objective: I can identify, analyse, and explain the use of patterns in art and nature.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to look for patterns in the kitchen, such as tiles or fabric prints, to help them visualise these concepts.

Read each question carefully. For multiple-choice questions, select the best answer. For short-answer questions, provide a clear explanation. Example: If asked 'What is a tessellation?', a good answer would be 'A pattern of shapes that fit together without any gaps or overlaps.'

Answer Key: 1. B, 2. True, 3. Radial, 4. A, 5. False, 6. Tessellation, 7. A, 8. B, 9. Geometric, 10. A. For open-ended questions: A good answer explains how the pattern repeats or reflects, a better answer identifies the specific type (e.g., rotational symmetry), and the best answer describes how the pattern creates a sense of movement or rhythm in the design.

Word bank: Symmetry · Tessellation · Motif · Geometric · Radial

1. 1. Which of these is an example of a natural pattern? A) A plain brick wall, B) The scales on a pinecone*, C) A single white sheet of paper, D) A plain plastic bottle. (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: A motif is a single design element that is repeated to create a pattern. (1 mark)

3. 3. What type of pattern spreads outwards from a central point, like the petals of a daisy? (1 mark)

4. 4. Zara the zebra is looking at a repeating pattern. Which term describes shapes fitting together perfectly with no gaps? A) Tessellation*, B) Isolation, C) Fragmentation, D) Distortion. (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: All patterns must use bright, neon colours to be considered art. (1 mark)

6. 6. If a design looks exactly the same on both sides of a line drawn down the middle, what is it called? (1 mark)

7. 7. Which of these uses geometric shapes? A) A pattern of triangles and squares*, B) A messy paint splatter, C) A photo of a fluffy cloud, D) A sketch of a wild garden. (1 mark)

8. 8. Why do artists use rhythm in a pattern? A) To make the art look unfinished, B) To create a sense of movement or flow*, C) To make the art very expensive, D) To hide mistakes. (1 mark)

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9. 9. A pattern that repeats by turning around a centre point is called what kind of symmetry? (1 mark)

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10. 10. Which of these would be the best way to create a pattern on a piece of card? A) Printing with a carved potato stamp*, B) Leaving the card completely blank, C) Drawing one single dot, D) Tearing the card in half. (1 mark)

Draw: Zara the zebra standing in a sunny meadow, sketching a complex geometric pattern inspired by the hexagonal shape of a honeycomb.

Extension challenge: Design your own pattern using two different shapes that tessellate. Explain why your shapes fit together without leaving any white space on the page.



I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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