Patterns in the World Around Us

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

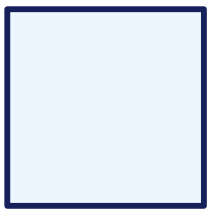
About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to look for patterns in floor tiles, wallpaper, or nature during your next walk outside.

Read each task carefully. For drawing tasks, use a sharp pencil or fine-liner. Remember, a pattern is a repeated decorative design. Example: Zara the zebra notices that a simple zig-zag line, when repeated at regular intervals, creates a bold chevron pattern.

Word bank: tessellation · symmetry · motif · geometric · organic · repetition · rotation

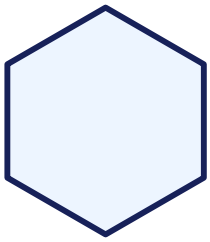
1. Zara the zebra loves the patterns on her coat. Look at a simple shape, like a triangle. Explain what 'tessellation' means and provide an example of where you might see it in your school. (2 marks)

2. Identify the type of symmetry shown by a square. If you rotate a square 90 degrees around its centre, does it look different? Explain why. (2 marks)



3. A designer is creating a tile for a London underground station. They use a motif of a robin. Sketch a simple repeat pattern in the space below using a repeating leaf or star motif. (2 marks)

4. Look at a honeycomb. Bea the honeybee knows this is a perfect example of geometric pattern. Why is a hexagon more efficient for storing honey than a circle? Give a reason based on how the shapes fit together. (2 marks)



5. Compare an 'organic' pattern found in a forest (like the veins on an oak leaf) with a 'geometric' pattern found on a playground floor. List two differences between them. (2 marks)

Draw: A close-up view of Zara the zebra holding a sketchbook, with various patterns like stripes, hexagons, and leaf motifs displayed on the wall behind her.

Extension challenge: Design a 'cultural' pattern inspired by a place in the UK, such as the waves of the seaside or the ironwork on a Victorian bridge. Use at least three colours and two different shapes.

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

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