Exploring Perspectives: The Cubist Style of Pablo Picasso

Learning objective: I can identify the features of Cubism and explain how Picasso used geometric shapes to represent subjects from multiple viewpoints.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to look at household objects from unusual angles, such as directly from above or below, to help them understand perspective.

Cubism breaks objects apart and reassembles them in abstract, geometric forms. To draw like Picasso, look at your subject from different angles at the same time.

Example: If drawing a face, you might show one eye from the front and the other from the side. Use sharp lines and blocks of flat colour.

Word bank: abstract · geometric · perspective · fragmented · composition · cubism

1. Cubism is famous for showing objects from multiple viewpoints at once. Explain why an artist might choose to paint a portrait this way instead of using a realistic style. Give one reason. (2 marks)

2. Look at a simple kitchen mug. If you were drawing it in a Cubist style, which three geometric shapes could you use to break down its form? (3 marks)

3. Zara is designing a collage of a robin. She wants to use 'fragmented' shapes. Describe how she should arrange the bird's wings to follow the rules of Cubism. (2 marks)

4. Compare a realistic painting of an oak tree with a Cubist painting of an oak tree. Identify one difference in how the leaves or branches would be depicted. (2 marks)

5. Picasso often used a limited colour palette in his early Cubist works. If you were creating a 'cold' mood piece using only three colours, which colours would you choose and why? (2 marks)

Draw: A still life arrangement of a vase and a piece of fruit, drawn in the style of Picasso using overlapping triangles and rectangles.

Extension challenge: Choose an object from your school bag. Sketch it three times: once realistically, once using only curved lines, and once using only sharp, geometric Cubist shapes. Which version tells the viewer the most about the object's shape?



I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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