

ZX

by

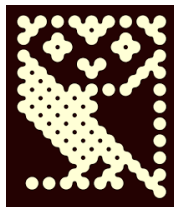
Alexandra Taylor

Example visuals

ZX Spectrum graphics



Owl



Tyre



Jellyfish



Cockerel



Dragon



EXT. COMPUTERLAND

00:00

A monochrome and uniform world. It functions, but in a purely practical way - no fun, just purpose. Grey IDENTIKIT creatures go listlessly about their business to mechanistic beats.

Suddenly - TA DA! - swashbuckling adventurer ZX arrives, in a blaze of radiant colour. Their points, health and time appear on the screen and remain throughout.

00:05 - POINTS: 0 HEALTH: 100 TIME: 81

The grey Identikits freeze, hide or scuttle away as the world around them begins to turn from gloomy grey to rainbow bright.

The air is filled with uptempo retro gaming music.

ZX looks around - there in the distance is their ultimate goal - the golden throne of World Domination.

They spring into action, heading towards the throne with joyful determination.

Almost immediately, ZX is attacked by a screeching OWL. ZX fends it off, but it continues to pester them throughout their quest.

00:15 - POINTS: 600,000 HEALTH: 90 TIME: 82

As ZX fends off Owl, a flying JELLYFISH also attacks. While Owl is an annoyance, Jellyfish really stings and knocks points off ZX's health.

Then a fierce DRAGON joins in the attack, making a strong initial bite and damaging ZX's health.

Next ZX faces a bouncing TYRE, although this is weak and ineffectual and ZX repels it easily.

00:25 - POINTS: 1,100,000 HEALTH: 70 TIME: 83

ZX injures Dragon, who begins to limp, but jellyfish gains in strength, weakening ZX.

As ZX fights off the attackers, they also throw down seeds, which spout and grow into colourful plants, bringing beauty, richness and variety to the world.

00:35 - POINTS: 4,100,000 HEALTH: 60 TIME: 84

ZX severely wounds Dragon, who collapses, then lies dying as ZX continues on their way.

But Jellyfish mounts a stinging attack and takes ZX's health score still lower.

A vicious COCKEREL also appears and attacks, wounding ZX significantly.

Tyre bounces back, but is again ineffectual.

00:45 - POINTS: 4,400,000 HEALTH: 45 TIME: 85

Jellyfish loses some of its power, but continues to hover, alongside Owl, continuing to make steady but small dents in ZX's health.

00:55 - POINTS: 4,600,000 HEALTH: 40 TIME: 86

Cockerel stops attacking ZX and instead they form a partnership. Cockerel gives ZX some corn, which rallies their health score a little. Cockerel urges ZX onwards.

Tyre bounces back one final time, but is no match for ZX.

01:05 - POINTS: 4,750,000 HEALTH: 60 TIME: 87

ZX and Cockerel stride joyfully onwards, but are still occasionally bothered by Jellyfish and Owl, and slowly losing health points. They desperately need to find more food.

Dragon's lifeless body disappears.

Tyre is punctured and also disappears.

01:15 - POINTS: 4,825,000 HEALTH: 50 TIME: 88

ZX and Cockerel try eating all sorts of seeds from the flowers that are growing, but none of them help their diminishing health.

01:25 - POINTS: 4,900,000 HEALTH: 40 TIME: 89

Owl flaps away, and Jellyfish is increasingly limp and listless. It continues to hover around, but no longer poses a threat to ZX.

But despite the lack of adversaries, ZX's health is getting dangerously low, the game music becoming slow, moody and disjointed.

01:35 - POINTS: 4,950,000 HEALTH: 30 TIME: 90

ZX staggers on, still sowing seeds, still intermittently attacked by Jellyfish, still spurred on by Cockerel, but their health is ticking down, down down...

01:45 - POINTS: 4,975,000 HEALTH: 20 TIME: 91

ZX is crawling, health levels critical. Cockerel is also growing weaker. Jellyfish continues to sting.

01:55 - POINTS: 5,000,000 HEALTH: 10 TIME: 92

ZX's health hits zero, and ZX collapses and dies. As they do so, the game music dies too.

A sad Cockerel crows a lament, then also collapses and dies, leaving just a tired yet triumphant Jellyfish floating above their bodies.

Jellyfish heads off towards the throne.

ZX's body sinks into the ground, subsumed by the jungle of vibrant, colourful plants they seeded, which continue to grow and fill the world with colourful flowers.

ZX may be defeated, but the world is a better place because they were here.

02:00 - END CREDITS