



EduTrend Contents

W4C · VISUAL ARTS · PRIMARY

Colour Mixing Lab

Mix primary colours to make a colour wheel

Ages 7–10

Level: Foundation

60 minutes

Tables of 4 · up to 30

Activity 01

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 01 · AT A GLANCE

Colour Mixing Lab

Pupils start with only red, yellow and blue paint plus white. They predict and test mixes, record results on a colour wheel, explore tints with white, and use warm or cool colours to paint a small picture that shows a mood.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- name the primary and secondary colours;
- mix secondary and tertiary colours and record results;
- make tints by adding white;
- choose warm or cool colours to create a mood.

KEY WORDS

primary · secondary · tertiary ·
colour wheel · tint · warm · cool ·
mix · palette

CURRICULUM LINKS

Art and design: colour and painting techniques. Science: observation and recording. National Core Arts Standards: creating.

1**EXPLORE**

Look and play

2**IMAGINE**

Generate ideas

3**PLAN**

Sketch and choose

4**MAKE**

Create the work

5**REFLECT**

Talk about it

6**REFINE**

Improve and share

Materials (per table)

- Red, yellow and blue ready-mix paint, plus white
- Mixing palettes or paper plates
- Brushes, water pots, paper towels
- Colour wheel template on thick paper
- Small sheets of card for the mood painting
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Pour small amounts of each primary colour and white into palettes.
- Print a colour wheel template for each pupil.
- Make your own wheel as an example.
- Cover tables and prepare aprons.

SAFETY

Use non-toxic, washable paints. Aprons on; wipe spills straight away; wash brushes and hands afterwards.

ACTIVITY 01 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Ask for a prediction before every mix: the surprise when a guess is wrong makes the learning stick.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–10 min Hook	Show a bright painting. Ask how many colours the artist had to start with.	<i>"Can we make every colour from three?"</i>
10–25 min Mix	Pupils predict, then mix pairs of primaries to make secondaries.	<i>"What happens if you add more yellow?"</i>
25–35 min Wheel	Pupils paint their colour wheel, adding tertiary colours in between.	<i>"Which colours sit opposite each other?"</i>
35–50 min Mood painting	Pupils paint a small scene using only warm or only cool colours.	<i>"How does your painting make people feel?"</i>
50–60 min Gallery	Display paintings; classmates guess warm or cool and the mood.	<i>"Which colour choice worked best?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Make a complete colour wheel from three primary colours and paint a small picture that uses warm or cool colours to show a mood.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The art in brief

Red, yellow and blue are traditional painters' primary colours: they cannot be mixed from other paints. Mixing two primaries makes a secondary colour (orange, green or purple). Mixing a primary with a neighbouring secondary makes a tertiary colour, such as yellow-green.

Artists arrange colours in a wheel to see relationships. Warm colours (reds, oranges, yellows) often feel lively; cool colours (blues, greens, purples) often feel calm. Colours opposite each other are complementary and look strong side by side. Adding white makes a tint; adding a little of the complementary colour makes a colour duller.

Common ideas to listen for

- "Brown is a primary colour." Brown is mixed, often from all three primaries.
- "More paint makes a brighter colour." Too many colours mixed together make mud.
- "There is one correct colour for everything." Artists choose colours to create moods and effects.

Adapting the activity

Support

Mix one secondary at a time with an adult, using pipettes for small amounts.

Stretch

Make a tint and shade scale for one colour and use it to paint light and shadow.

WORKSHEET 1

Mixing predictions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Predict each mix, then test it.

Mixes

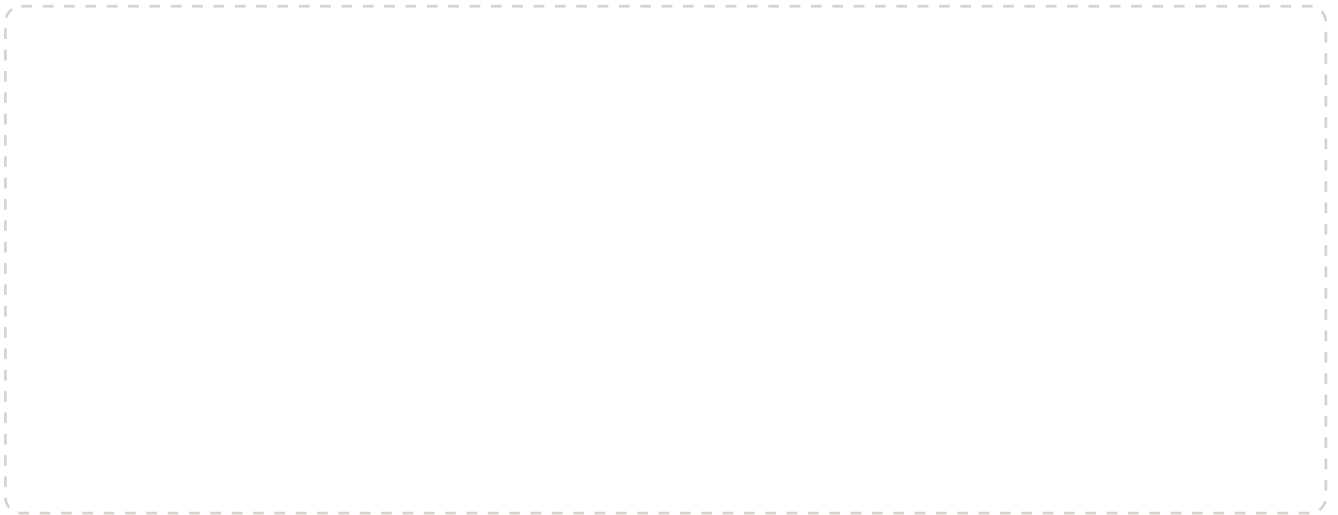
Colours mixed	My prediction	What happened (paint a swatch)
Red + yellow		
Yellow + blue		
Blue + red		
Red + white		
Blue + white		

WORKSHEET 2

My colour wheel

Paint primaries, secondaries and tertiaries in order.

Colour wheel



Draw a circle with 12 segments. Label each colour.

WORKSHEET 3

Colour and mood

Think about your painting.

I chose warm / cool colours because...

The mood of my painting is...

Next time I would try...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Mixes and names colours	Records results accurately	Uses colour to create a mood

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Colour Mixing Lab is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents W4C Visual Arts programme (primary, level: foundation). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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