
UNIT: Elements of Design**LESSON:** Color Basics

COMPETENCIES:

1. Identify the origin of color.
 2. List the factors influencing color: light, texture and material, placement, value, distribution, and contrast.
 3. Identify the colors on the color wheel: primary, secondary, tertiary.
 4. Identify the warm and cool colors and their characteristics.
-

OVERVIEW/SUMMARY:

Color is one of a designer's most effective and cost-efficient tools. A good understanding of color will enable a person to be more competent in interior design.

MOTIVATOR:

A fun idea is to use Vanilla Wafers and frosting to create an edible color wheel. Begin with red, yellow and blue frosting, then begin mixing colors and frosting cookies to create the color wheel.

OR

Have students look at light through prisms, or prism glasses, available through Flinn Scientific, Inc., 1-800-452-1261.

OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:**OPTION 1**

DISCUSSION: Present the teacher information "COLOR" to the students.

OPTION 2

GROUP ACTIVITY: Divide the class into small groups. Give each group pieces of paper in the following colors: red, yellow, blue, purple, orange, and green. Have them divide the colors into warm and cool colors. Then have them place the colors in a logical order. This activity will automatically lead into a discussion of the color wheel.

OPTION 3

ACTIVITY: Have students use their text as a reference book to paint their "COLOR WHEEL". Tempera or water color paints in tubes work well. (You may wish to give your students the liberty of presenting their color wheel in a creative way, such as a Ferris wheel, flower garden, etc., but be sure that the basic principles are presented correctly.) This color wheel needs to be easy to use as a working tool for the students.

TEACHER NOTE: As students begin to work with paints, you may wish to use old whipped topping containers for painting supplies. The lid makes a great palette while the bottom serves as a receptacle for water.

RESOURCES:

Science teachers have excellent resource information that deals with the color spectrum, such as Flinn Scientific, Inc., 1-800-452-1261.

For a current color forecast, write Colwell Industries, 123 N. Third St., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55401, Attn: Millie Nelson, 613-340-0365, Color Chart \$15.00 (check, Visa, or Master Card).

Information taken from the notes of Rose Mary Lindberg, Instructor—Pleasant Grove High, Karla Nielson—Associate Professor, Brigham Young University, and Ann Price—manager of Glidden's Color and Design Center.
