

Color Search

WHAT'S THE
Big Idea?
Diversity

Enduring Understandings

- The world is made up of many different colors.
- There are different colors for different reasons.
- Everything is unique and special.

Objectives

- Children develop their observation and matching skills.
- Children discover the diversity of colors found in the world around them.

Directions

It can be helpful for children to develop their “owl eyes” (see *What’s Happening?* p.131) prior to beginning this experience.

1. Explain that you will be going on a “Color Search.” Typically, this can be done as a walk outside, but consider what kind of adventure or classroom experience makes sense for your students. Have the children predict the colors they might see on their “Color Search.”
2. As your class is searching, have students name some of the colors they see. Were their predictions accurate? Did they see any colors they didn’t predict? Do they think they’ve named all the colors now?
3. Hand out the color sample chips and challenge the children to find a match for the color they’ve been given. Remember, the goal is to have them experience a diversity of colors.
4. You can facilitate this activity in one of two ways: you may want to begin with having children look for their color matches on things that belong to that place, such as rocks, mosses, trees, ground debris, signs, buildings, etc. You can also have them approach this activity thinking about different skin tones. Either way, it’s vital that children are allowed to acknowledge and name what they notice about human difference (see box).

Materials

- color sample chips (You can find paint sample cards, formica top samples, or paint samples on wooden squares at a hardware store. You could also use scraps of colored paper or colored pipe cleaners.)
- *The Colors of Us* by Karen Katz

The Colors of Us

People have different hair, eye, and skin colors and they wear different colored clothing. When we discourage children from voicing what they notice about people, we teach them that human difference is taboo. Young children also often believe different skin colors have different values, because those messages run deep in our culture and media. But all skin, hair, and eye colors are beautiful, and none have more intrinsic value than others. The value we perceive and ascribe to skin, hair and eye color are the foundations of stereotypes and bias. It is our job as teachers to foster a constructive conversation about human difference that acknowledges and affirms the colors of all people. *The Colors of Us*, by Karen Katz is an excellent resource.



Extensions

- ***The Black Book of Colors*** by Menena Cottin and Rosana Faria. This book is all in black but it has raised pictures of objects along with Braille.
- ***Color Dance*** by Ann Jonas
- ***Sky Color*** by Peter H. Reynolds
- ***All the Colors of the Earth*** by Sheila Hamanaka
- "Shape Search": A variety of shapes cut from paper can be substituted for colors, or you can use three dimensional objects (a ball or a pair of dice).
- Place a specific textured object (sandpaper, cotton, etc.) in a bag. Have students feel what's in the bag (NO PEEKING!), describe how the object feels, then find something in nature that has a similar texture.
- Use an empty egg carton to collect samples of your color. Talk with children about not picking someone's flowers or taking personal belongings to include in their collection. When in a natural area, meadow, or field, talk about what ground rules you and your children want to maintain.
- Give each child a color chip that they keep throughout the year. One teacher made her students' nametags from color chips and students looked for color matches through the seasons.

5. As children find their matches, offer them more color chips to choose from. They can work independently or in small groups.
6. Process and reflect on the experience with the children by engaging in a conversation guided by the discussion questions.

Discussion Questions

- What colors did you think you'd see?
- What colors surprised you?
- What were some of the color matches you made?
- Why do you think _____ (item) was _____ (color)?
- Why do you think there are so many different colors out there?
- Do you think there is a different time of year when it would be easier to find some of the colors?
- Why is it important that there are different colors in the world?
- What color words would you use to describe the color of your skin?

