Activities

Color Fun

Grades: PreK–K, 1–2, 3–5, 6–8

Overview
Kids make a color graph, mix colors with melting ice cubes, go on Color Walks, etc.

Color Graphs
Give younger children a chance to look beyond the crayon box with a class discussion of favorite colors, starting with your own. Talk with students about why you chose this color, and then guide them through the thinking process to choose their own favorites. Record responses on a rainbow-colored bar graph, then ask students to find examples of each favorite color around your classroom.

Mixing Colors
Introduce the science of color — and reinforce the scientific method — by trying this exciting-yet-easy color experiment! Create red, blue, and yellow ice cubes by adding food coloring to water before freezing it. Divide the class into pairs, and distribute three clear plastic cups to each. Ask each pair to predict and write down what they think will happen when two different colors are mixed. Then invite the pairs to pick ice cubes in those colors and place in a cup. As the cubes melt, have
students record the outcomes. How accurate were their predictions? Next, distribute cups of red, blue, and yellow tempera paint and ask students to predict what will happen when white paint is added. Encourage students to experiment on their own, and then discuss the outcomes as a class.

**Reading Color**
Invite students to choose a poem or song about color each week during your color studies. Distribute a copy to each student to illustrate. Then use the poems as quick and easy read-alouds. Here are a couple of favorites.

**Green Giant**
There lived a green giant whose name was Sam.
His hair was the color of strawberry jam.
He had one brown eye and one blue eye,
And a beard the color of pumpkin pie.
His coat and pants were gay and bright,
Like a peppermint stick, all red and white.
His shoes were as brown as a chocolate drop.
His stockings were yellow as lemon pop.
His hat was the color of ginger bread
With a tall, tall feather of raspberry red.

**The Color Song**
Red, red, red, touch your head.
Blue, blue, blue, tie your shoe.
Brown, brown, brown, touch the ground.
White, white, white, take a bite.
Black, black, black, touch your back.
Purple, purple, purple, draw a circle.
Pink, pink, pink, give a wink.
Gray, gray, gray, shout hurray!
Warm and Cool Colors
Introduce the concept of "warm" colors (red, orange, yellows) and "cool" colors (blue, green, purple) by talking about the ways color can be used to express feelings and moods. Ask questions like "What colors remind you of fire?" "What comes to mind when you think of something cold?" Then ask students to create one picture with warm colors only, and one with cool only. Present their pictures side-by-side. What kinds of images did students choose? How does each make them feel? Next, ask students to consider what it would be like if their pictures used the opposite colors. Have them each create a third picture, either by duplicating one of their pictures in the opposite colors, or using both warm and cool in a new scene.

Color Walks
Get children to recognize color in their environment by inviting them on daily color adventures, either around the school or through your neighborhood. An “I Spy” game works well with colors as does a “Treasure Hunt.”

Subjects:
Charts and Graphs, Arts and Creativity, Colors, Light, Science, Teacher Tips and Strategies