

Exploring Color and Paint and Flower with Watercolors

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Total time: 90 minutes

Intended for a 3rd grade class

Concepts:

- Introduction to basic color theory, the color wheel, how to mix colors, primary, secondary, and complimentary colors
- Practice observing colors in nature
- Understand layering washes with watercolor

Objectives:

- Be able to mix secondary colors from primary colors, as well as shades of brown and grey
- Create an abstract painting using different colors and values.
- Layer washes in watercolor painting to create different colors and values
- Observe a natural object (such as a flower) and practice mixing local color

Vocabulary:

- Primary Colors – The three colors that all colors can be mixed from (red, yellow, blue)
- Secondary Colors – The colors made by mixing 2 primary colors (orange, violet, green)
- Complimentary Colors – Colors opposite each other on the color wheel. When mixed together equally you will get black.

Materials:

- Crayola Model Magic clay in yellow, red, and blue
- Color wheel printed on paper
- Two pieces of blank watercolor paper
- Flowers (or leaves) for students to work from
- Pencil
- Watercolor paints with primary colors, possibly more colors
- Palette for mixing paint on
- Watercolor brushes
- Paper towels
- Cups for water
- Magnifying glass for looking at details (optional)

Hook:

Mixing colors is important for artists. Look at flowers, how many colors do you see? Today we are going to learn how to mix those colors. Yesterday we talked about value. What values can we observe in the flower? Do colors have value?

Instruction Sequence:

- Recap what we did yesterday with value, introduce color
- Make Color wheel with clay: Hand out blobs of red, yellow, and blue. Have students put small blobs of each on the color wheel. Have them mix secondary colors with the clay to fill out the rest of the color wheel. Have them find out what happens when they mix all the primary colors together.
- Optional: Have them paint the color wheel using watercolors
- Make an abstract painting practicing mixing colors: Draw out abstract lines with lots of overlapping shapes. Start filling in the shapes with different watercolor colors. Use primary colors and practice mixing other colors with watercolor. When one shape is dry, fill in an overlapping shape with another color. Watercolors are transparent so you should see them mix together. Think about using dark and light values.
- Flowers – Step by step drawing with flowers (similar to feather sequence yesterday). Encourage students to see the big shapes and not draw each petal or detail. Mix a light shade of the main colors that are in the flower and fill in the drawing with watercolor. When the first layer is dry add a second layer of darker values to add more texture or to further define shapes.
- Clean up and conclusion

Conclusion

- Go over color wheel and how to mix colors
- Look at student work and discuss how they used color and value
- Extension- Talk about flower parts and anatomy
- Extension - Talk about colors in nature and how artists use them. When is it important to use accurate color? When does it make sense to use more expressive color?

Assessment

- Ability to mix secondary colors in clay and watercolor
- Ability to layer watercolor washes
- Ability to follow steps for drawing flowers
- Use of multiple values and accurate colors in final painting of flower