

Colour mixing

This activity is suitable for any investigations into rainforest such as studying flowers, leaves and colours of insects, especially butterfly wings. By exploring colour students will produce amazing variations.

When we provide students with paint pots containing one colour, a predetermined size of paper and one paintbrush we determine which colours they use, the size of the paintbrush and ultimately the type of picture they produce. If students have opportunity and time to experiment with colour, paper and paintbrushes they will produce a greater variety of artwork and delight in results they achieve.

One way of organising painting activities is to provide small plastic squeeze bottles of paint, palettes, a wide range of paintbrushes and paper of different sizes, colours and textures.

- Demonstrate how to mix colours using a little of each colour at a time and adding more when necessary
- Demonstrate how much paint to use (this is very important)
- Show how to use black and white and discuss changes
- Discuss how to use different sized paintbrushes
- Demonstrate how to clean palettes and paintbrushes when finished.

Students squeeze small amounts of different coloured paint onto their palettes mixing them together. When their paintings are finished the students share their results and discuss how they made the colours.

Extension

Show the students a leaf, a flower, a butterfly. Discuss the colours they can see:

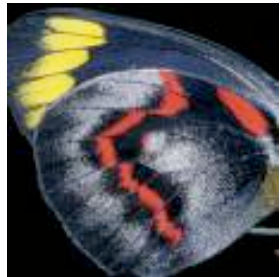
- What colours can you see in this leaf?
- Are all the greens /reds/ yellows the same?
- How are they different?
- Are they darker or lighter?
- Does it look different outside compared to inside? (discuss the effects of light on colour)
- How do you think you could make that colour?
- Try to match the colours with paints available
- Ask for ideas on how to produce the exact colour
- Test their ideas
- Let them experiment to produce the exact colour of the focus subject.

The students then produce their impressions of the subject.

Here are some suggestions for colour investigation:



Red Spider



Common Jezabel



Red Leaf

On close observation these leaves have several different shades of red, green and yellow.

All of these subjects have a variety of colour which students try to match. As they look at colours they will observe more closely and discuss the different features they see.