

Teacher's Guide

All About Colors series

Introduction

This teacher's guide helps educate young children all about colors. Each book is an easily read story that introduces the colors, as well as the color words *blue*, *green*, *red*, *orange*, *purple*, and *yellow*. Children are surrounded by colors: the blue sky, green grass, orange sunsets, red apples, purple violets, and yellow sun. Color words not only help to describe emotions such as "red as a beet," "red-faced," and "green with envy" but also help to describe the world in its many variations.

Activities for teaching the five subject areas—Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and the Arts—can be found in this teacher's guide. Beginning readers will practice sight words and repetitive text as they learn about colors and what makes them special.

Guided Reading Level: B

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All About Colors Educator's Guide
for

I See Red

This teacher's guide helps educate young children about colors. Each book is an easily read story that introduces the colors, as well as the color words *blue*, *green*, *red*, *orange*, *purple*, and *yellow*. Children are surrounded by colors: the blue sky, green grass, orange sunsets, red apples, purple violets, and yellow sun. Color words not only help us to describe what something looks like, but also describe emotions as in "red as a beet," "red-faced," and "green with envy."

When all the colors of the light spectrum are mixed together, you see white. When all the colors are separated, a rainbow appears. (A spectrum is a band of colors into which a white light is separated by being passed through a prism or by other means.) A rainbow can be seen when sunlight passes and is bent by raindrops. The colors of the spectrum are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.

Activities for teaching the five subject areas—Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and the Arts—can be found in the attached pages of this teacher's guide.

Here are some basic facts that you can share with your students about colors. A Web site is suggested for further information.

Color Basics

Red: Red is one of the three primary colors. The other two primary colors are blue and yellow. Primary colors cannot be created by mixing other colors. Some of the ways the color red pops up in the English language are: red-letter day (important or significant occasion); roll out the red carpet (make someone feel special); paint the town red (celebrate). The color red screams out for our attention. Red is the color of stop signs, fire engines, traffic lights, and brake lights.

Orange: The color orange is made by mixing the two primary colors red and yellow. We see orange in nature in the changing leaves of autumn, the sunset, and in the citrus fruit, orange. Orange and black are traditional Halloween colors. Safety orange is a color used to set things apart from their surroundings. Safety orange is the color used in the United States for traffic cones, stanchions, barrels, and other construction zone marking devices. OSHA requires that certain construction equipment be painted safety orange.

Yellow: Yellow is one of the three primary colors. The other two primary colors are blue and red. Primary colors cannot be created by mixing other colors. The sunniest color in the spectrum, yellow has long been associated with cheerfulness and happiness. Bright yellow is often used for hazard signs and some emergency vehicles because of its high visibility. When we "tie a yellow ribbon around the old oak tree," we are showing hope, support, and remembrance for soldiers away from home. And according to the sixties pop song, "Mellow Yellow," we want to be laid back and relaxed.

Green: The color green is made by mixing yellow and blue, two primary colors. Green is the color of grass and leaves. Some of the phrases that use the color word green are: green light (go, permission to start); green thumb (good at making plants grow); greenback (U.S. dollar bill). Green is also associated with the country of Ireland or "the Emerald Island." And when green and red are seen together, we think of the Christmas holiday.

Blue: As Vincent Van Gogh said, “There is no blue without yellow and without orange.” The color blue is one of the three primary colors. The other two are red and yellow. Primary colors cannot be created by mixing other colors. Blue is the color of the clear sky in daylight. Blue also figures into the names of many animals and plants: blueberries, bluebirds, bluefish, blue grass, blue jays, blue whales, and bluebells. Some other ways the word blue is used in English are: true blue (someone loyal and faithful); blue ribbon (first prize); the blues (popular style of music).

Purple: The color purple is made by mixing the primary colors red and blue. The word purple has its origin in the word “purpura.” Purpura is a kind of shellfish from which purple dye was produced. The word became popular when the dye started being used to dye royal robes purple. Then the color purple is most often associated with royalty. At times in history, it was against the law for anyone but kings and queens to wear purple robes. Purple is also the color of the Purple Heart is a U.S. Military decoration given to soldiers wounded in battle.

Activities for *I See Red*

SAFETY WARNING:

Before any activity, make sure your students do not have any allergies to items that you might use. Never use anything that is sharp or may cut a student. Do not use anything so hot or cold that it might injure a student. Always have an adult supervise all activities to ensure the safety of your students.

Reading/Language Arts activity: Sight words

Beginning readers will find easy words and repetitive phrases throughout the book. Almost all the words used in this book can be found in the Dolch word list, which is appropriate for beginning readers through the third grade. To learn more, visit www.dolch-words.com. Additional words that may be specific to this book can be found in the Words to Know section on page 3.

Math activity: Color hop

Cut circles or squares from different colors of paper. Use contact paper to attach these to the floor. Place them in a way where the children can hop from one color to the next easily. Make every other circle or square red. Reinforce identification of the color red by asking children to only hop on the red squares.

Science activity: Be the scientist!

One way scientists group animals or plants is by color. Have a variety of objects ready for the children to sort. They can be small toys, blocks, or a variety of different objects. Have a variety of objects that have the color red. Then have the children sort objects using the color red.

Extend this activity by having a number of animal photos with red body parts, such as a robin's redbreast. A further extension of this activity is to ask children to think of other ways they can sort the objects.

Social Studies activity: Traffic signs

Show a picture of a stop sign. What does this sign tell us to do? Where do you see this sign? Has anyone ever seen a blue stop sign? What about other colors? Why do you think that all stop signs are red? Are all traffic signs the same color? Finish the discussion with a quick reminder of traffic safety.

Arts activity: Cut and paste

In the book, *I See Red*, a girl looks for her red birthday hat. Have children look through magazines for pictures with the color red and paste them onto red construction paper. Do the same with each color and use these as posters for the classroom.

Variation: Show children a collage or collages created by an artist, such as Henri Matisse's *The Snail*. Explain that a collage is a picture made by pasting paper, cloth, metal, and other things in an arrangement on a surface. Encourage children to create their own collages.

Color the cherries red.

