

Primary Colors and a Rainbow Garden

EPISODE LENGTH: 13:10



SUMMARY: The Color Episode is here! WendyMac hits the streets with her giant paintbrush and discovers the primary colors. After returning from the art adventure, we take a DrawTogether kid request to draw a “Rainbow Garden.” We slow down and draw colorful flowers, talk about the relationships between the primary colors, and add some fun details. Suso is very, very impressed with our garden.

SUPPLIES: paper, pen/pencil, coloring materials (crayons, markers, watercolors)



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING: focus and observation, connecting to the outside world with purpose

CASEL COMPETENCIES: self-awareness, self-management

CREATIVE SKILLS: color relationships, fine and gross motor skills (drawing, coloring), indoor/outdoor connection

Guiding Questions:

- When you go outside to explore, what do you look for?
- What color combinations are most exciting and fun to you?
- Explore secondary colors, or even tertiary colors. Discuss warm colors and cool colors. Primary colors are the foundation, and just the beginning! If you had a rainbow garden at home, what is an activity you would do inside the garden?

Key Moments:

3:27 After running around the city with a giant paintbrush finding houses in primary colors, we sit down to draw the Rainbow Garden

7:10 WendyMac revisits the primary colors

10:05 We add a helpful pollinator (a bee!) to the drawing



Primary Colors and a Rainbow Garden (continued)



Book recommendations:

- **Mix It Up!** — by Herve Tullet
An early-reader book about playing with primary colors. It's an interactive, fun, giggly way to imagine (and splatter, mix, transform) color.
- **The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse** — by Eric Carle
Another great early-reader book from the beloved Carle, whose vibrant colors combine with animals to proclaim, "Everyone can be an artist!"

Older Kid Riff: Garden to Table

Design your "dream garden." What plants, flowers, vegetables, or other things would go in it? If you could create your own fruit or vegetable, what would it be called, and what nutrients would you get from eating it? Then, draw and describe a delicious dish that you would cook from the ingredients in your dream garden. What would it look like? How would it taste? How might you make this dish in real life? (Bonus if you try to make a version of the dish to share at school or home!)



Activities and Explorations



PODCAST CONNECTION: THANKS, DON'T MONDRIAN IF I DO! is a DT spin on a classic art school color + shape lesson. (page 69)

ACTIVITY: put on your art eyes and explore your surroundings to complete this **COLOR WHEEL SCAVENGER HUNT**

EXPLORE MORE: fascinating, different colors and how to create your own.

COLORFUL US: a skin-color mixing activity with artist Jen Bloomer





Fascinating, Different Colors

Red, blue, yellow: primary colors are important, but sometimes you just want a color that's a little...unique. Today we introduce you to three fascinating colors and invite you to create your own.



Cosmic latte: A team of astronomers found the average color of the entire universe! Which basically is the sum of all colors mixed together and then divided by the number of colors. Yeah, we're not exactly sure what that means either, but we do know that cosmic latté is a beige-ish color that we imagine exists in all the stars and planets.

Lapis lazuli: This fun word to say is actually a semiprecious stone that was once more valuable than gold. It is ground to a powder to make an intense blue color. Fun fact: this drawing has been made from real lapis lazuli pigment!

Razzmatazz: Crayola invented this berrylicious red-pink color in 1993, but did not know what to name it. So they held a competition and collected names from around the world. Guess who came up with the zippy-sounding "razzmatazz"? A 5-year-old girl!

So... what special color would you create? And what would you name it?



Colorful Us: A Skin Color Mixing Activity with Artist JEN BLOOMER

Making art together is a great way to have conversations about our identities and skin colors. It opens us up to new ways of seeing each other and thinking about who we are, without judgment. This activity was inspired by the book **BROWN: THE MANY SHADES OF LOVE** (words by Nancy Johnson James, illustrations by Constance Moore).

Step 1: Gather materials: paints, some paper, a plastic palette or just a spare plate for mixing, a paint brush and some water. We recommend watercolors, but you can also use acrylic, tempera, or another kind of paint. For skin colors we like to use red, yellow, brown and purple.

Step 2: Start experimenting with mixing skin colors for different family members and friends. For a medium brown we mix red, yellow and brown. For darker skin colors we add very little yellow and more brown and purple. For very light skin colors we used a lot of water (or white paint) and just a tiny dab of red and yellow. After you mix a color make a mark on a test piece of paper. That will help you see if you need to add more color to adjust the shade.



Jen's daughter, Saba, made this skin color palette for their family

Step 3: Once you mix a color you like, add it to your main piece of paper (see above) and write the name of your family member or friend. You can come up with special names for the different shades.

** Color mixing takes a lot of practice and sometimes you end up with colors you never expected, which can also be a fun surprise!*

To expand the activity, consider how color changes on different parts of our bodies — freckles, birthmarks, eyes, hair. When you really take the time to think about and create skin color, it's amazing!