

Look and See

A Color Match

Overview: This activity helps students increase visual observation skills as they search for natural objects that match a color chip.

Materials: Journals, pencils, variety of color paint chips, clear “scotch” tape

Time: 10 – 15 minutes

Action:

- In the classroom, have students create a titled journal page. Explain the activity and discuss expected outdoor behavior.
- Outdoors, have students Circle UP. Review the assignment, explaining that they will have 5 minutes to match the color of the chip they receive to a natural (not human-made) object. If possible they may collect a small sample of the object (usually plant material) to tape in the journal and write a description, a reflection, or a surprise they discovered.
- Define boundaries where students may search. You see them; they see you.
- After 5 minutes, students return to the circle to tape samples and discuss their discoveries.

Vocabulary: Paint producers name color chips. Have students develop colorful names too. (e.g. Tadpole green, Deep Woods green, Sea foam green.)

Management Strategies:

- For quick distribution, hold chips face down, so no choosing colors.
- Color chips are available at paint stores, or have students select a crayon color to match in the journal. Provide a variety of reds, yellows, brown, grays, and greens.
- The activity can be done in all seasons. In winter, the red and maroon colors can be matched if students look at the tips of tree buds. In spring, there will be many shades of green to match. Green may be the hardest color for an exact match.
- If someone has no match, or is color blind, have classmates help search.
- Visually impaired students may be given a texture to find in nature.
- An Art extension: Assign teams to collect every shade of a single color and have them arrange the various shades in order on a long strip of masking tape.