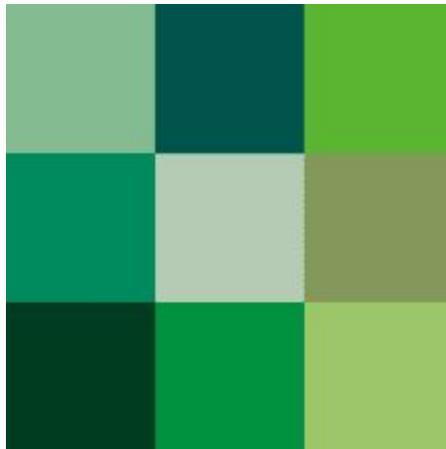


Color Idiom Activity

Introduction: Colors are everywhere! If we want to describe something that we see, we usually start off by talking about what color it is. And if you try to describe the colors that you see, you will discover that there are a lot more colors in the world around us than just the colors of the rainbow. For example, we say that both the ocean and the sky are blue, but are they really the same color? Since the blue of the sky is different from the blue of the ocean, we use phrases like “sky blue” to describe the color of the sky and “ocean blue” to describe the color of the ocean. This is just one example of how we create words for different shades of the same color. What are some other ways to differentiate colors of the same shade?

Activity 1: Describing Colors

Print out a sheet of paper with any image like this one and give one to every two students.



Each student should work with the person sitting next to them to play the following game. The partners will take turns describing one of the squares for their partner, who will in turn have to guess which square their partner is talking about.

For example, student 1 will say “the olive green square” and student 2 will point to the middle square in the 3rd column.

The students should switch off giving clues and guessing. Encourage them to finish as many squares as they can.

After the activity, **discuss:**

1. Ask the students to provide examples of how they identified the individual shades of green
2. Ask the students whether they found the activity challenging. What was challenging about it?

Activity 2: Learn about your own color!

The goal of this assignment is to learn about how many different words there can be for a single color, and also to appreciate that colors can have different meanings in different cultures.

Have the students choose a color that they would like to learn more about. This activity should be adapted to the age of the student. For example, if the students are older, you might want to have them gather the information on their own by using the online tools that you provide for them. For younger students, you might want to just give them the information that they need. After the student chooses a color s/he will:

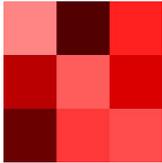
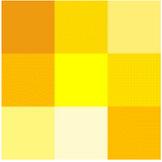
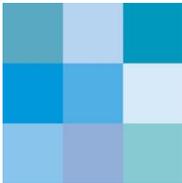
1. Locate 5-10 synonyms for their chosen color. They can use <https://www.lexico.com/>, or any suitable thesaurus. (For younger students, you can use the website to provide them with a list of synonyms).
2. Next, use a dictionary to individually look up the definitions of the synonyms that you found and write them down. This can be an opportunity to teach students about using thesauruses and dictionaries--just because a thesaurus gives something as a synonym, does not mean it can/should be used in the *exact* same way as the original word. Before using a synonym found in a thesaurus, always look up its official meaning.
3. Now it is time to discover the significance of your color around the world! In different parts of the world, colors have different meanings. Locate your color on the chart¹ to learn about the meanings or associations that your color has.
4. Finally, it is time to take everything that you know and create a collage! Locate objects (either small physical objects that can be glued on to construction paper, or printed images) that match the different shades of the color you looked up. Label each object with the correct corresponding color name. Also, add something into your collage that relates to the cultural meaning of your color. For example, if your color is popular in America then you might want to add an American flag to your collage.

Optional: Decorate the classroom with the finished collages.

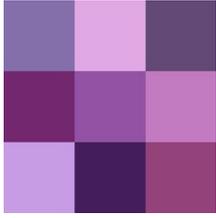
Optional: Have the students present their collages in class.

¹ Chart can be found on the next page (it continues on to two pages)

COLORS AROUND THE WORLD

Color	Country/ Region	Meaning
<p>RED</p> 	<p>CHINA</p> 	<p>In China, the color red symbolizes luck and happiness. Red is worn during happy occasions: to celebrate the Chinese New Year, or by brides on their wedding days. Since red is the color of happiness, it is forbidden at funerals.</p>
<p>YELLOW</p> 	<p>EGYPT</p> 	<p>In America, yellow is usually thought of as a happy color--the color of sunshines and smiley faces. But in Egypt it has the opposite meaning--yellow or gold is traditionally the color of mourning.</p>
<p>GREEN</p> 	<p>IRELAND</p> 	<p>The color green is often associated with Ireland for two reasons. Firstly, Ireland is known for its beautiful green landscape. Ireland is also the birthplace of St Patrick's Day, a holiday that is celebrated with green clothing and decorations!</p>
<p>BLUE</p> 	<p>TURKEY, IRAN, AFGHANISTAN</p> 	<p>In some middle eastern countries, like Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan, the color blue, and especially the symbol of a blue eye, is seen as protection against evil. Jewelry with the blue "evil eye" symbol is popular in those countries</p>

PURPLE



All over the world, the color purple is a symbol of royalty and wealth. This is because a long time ago, the dye that was used to create the color purple was very expensive. Purple clothing was quite a luxury!