Create a Color Wheel

Explore how to mix colors by making a color wheel with play dough!

Materials Needed:

*To make your own play dough, try this recipe: www.thebestideashforkids.com/playdough-recipe/

Instructions:

Step 1: Start with a piece of dough from each of the primary colors (red, yellow, and blue). Roll each one into a ball, and place on the color wheel template in the circles with the thickest outlines. Together, they will form a triangle.

Step 2: Mix secondary colors (orange, green, and violet). Pinch off pieces of red and yellow. Roll the dough together in your fingers until the two colors become orange. Pinch the orange dough in half and set one half aside. Roll the other half into a ball and place in the circle halfway between red and yellow.

Step 3: Repeat step 2, using yellow and blue dough to make green. Place the green dough in the circle halfway between yellow and blue.

Step 4: Repeat step 2, using red and blue to make violet. Place the violet dough in the circle halfway between blue and red.

Step 5: To make tertiary colors, mix a primary color with a secondary color. For example: red + orange = red-orange. Yellow + green = yellow-green. Blue + violet = blue-violet.

Fill in the rest of the color wheel with tertiary colors.

Step 6: Optional: Use a pencil to label your colors.
UAMN Virtual Junior Curators: Colors

Color Wheel Template
Explore Colors

Some materials let certain colors pass through them, and absorb other colors. These materials are called dyes or pigments. The primary colors of pigment are red, yellow, and blue. The primary colors can be mixed to create other colors.

A primary color + a primary color = a secondary color. The secondary colors are orange, green, and violet.

You can mix secondary colors with primary colors to make tertiary colors. The tertiary colors are red-orange, yellow-orange, blue-green, yellow-green, red-violet, and blue-violet.

If you were to draw a straight line across the color wheel from one color to the one directly across from it, you would find that color’s opposite. Opposite colors are called complementary colors. For example, red and green are complementary colors. Can you name any other pairs of complementary colors?