



## OVERVIEW

These activities get students thinking about colour in nature and engage students with the natural world around them. Through the activities students observe the variety of different colours around them and have a go at using plant material to create their own artwork. Activities can be used together to form a lesson or as stand alone activities.

## INTRODUCTION PPT OR PICTURES

Use the Powerpoint or pictures to introduce colour in nature. The idea that it can inspire artwork and provides pigments for paints and dyes. Depending on age and ability you can also discuss why plants might produce different colours.

## ACTIVITY 1 - ARTIST'S PALETTE

Go for a walk outside taking your artist's palettes with you. Challenge students to find as many colours and different shades of colour as they can. For each new colour, they must take a teeny tiny bit and stick it to their artist's palette. No pebbles (they won't stick) or insects!

## ACTIVITY 2 - SMASHING PLANTS

Each child will need a square of white cotton/calico or a cotton bag, a tool to smash with - a smooth pebble that fits in the hand works well as there is less chance of hitting fingers - and a selection of coloured petals and leaves. Place the petals and leaves onto the fabric and smash! It can be easier (and less noisy) to do this on the floor with a piece of board or clipboard underneath the fabric to form a hard surface. Some of the colour should transfer to the material. Brush off any excess plant material to reveal your smashing artwork!

## CURRICULUM LINKS

- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design
- Ar1/1.1 Ar2/1.2
- Sc1, 2 & 3 Plants

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To think about the role of colour in plants
- To explore the natural environment
- To use colours from natural materials to create a piece of art

## RESOURCES

- Colours in Nature Ppt
- Colour in Nature example pictures
- Artist's Palette template
- Smashing plants instructions sheet

## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

- Card
- Double-sided sticky tape
- Leaves and coloured petals
- Smooth rocks or other tool to 'smash' with
- Pieces of white cotton/calico or cotton bags

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Have a go at making your own natural paints out of spices, or berries and spinach:  
<http://bitly.ws/9CD3>

Investigate the natural plant pigments that have historically been used in art and to dye fabrics.

## VOCABULARY

palette colour pigment shade

## LINKS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you! If you have questions or comments, or would like to book a visit to the Botanic Garden please get in touch: [education@botanic.cam.ac.uk](mailto:education@botanic.cam.ac.uk)