

Lesson Plan: The Magic of Color - Becoming a Color Wizard

Materials Needed

- Paper (watercolor paper or thick cardstock is best)
- Paints (Red, Yellow, Blue, Black, and White - acrylic or tempera work well)
- Paintbrushes (at least one fine tip and one medium flat brush)
- A palette for mixing paint (a paper plate or plastic lid works)
- A cup of water for rinsing brushes
- Paper towels
- A pencil and a ruler
- A circular object to trace (like a large lid or a bowl)
- Optional: Color wheel printout for reference
- Optional (for extension activity): An extra sheet of paper for painting

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, Monica will be able to:

- Identify and name the three primary colors.
- Create the three secondary colors by mixing primary colors.
- Create at least two tertiary colors by mixing primary and secondary colors.
- Construct a basic 12-section color wheel demonstrating her understanding of color relationships.
- Explain how a color wheel helps artists make decisions.

Lesson Structure

Part 1: Introduction (5-10 minutes)

Hook

"Monica, did you know that every single color you can imagine—the green of a leaf, the purple of a flower, the orange of a sunset—all starts with just three 'parent' colors? They are like the building blocks for everything an artist paints. Today, you're going to learn the secret formula to become a color wizard and mix any color you want!"

State Objectives

"Our mission today is to discover these three magical primary colors, learn how to mix them to create a whole rainbow of new colors, and build our very own artist's tool: a color wheel. By the end, you'll know how artists choose colors that look amazing together in their work."

Part 2: Body (30-40 minutes)

"I Do" - Introducing Primary & Secondary Colors (10 mins)

1. **Explain Primary Colors:** "These are our three primary colors: Red, Yellow, and Blue. They are special because you can't create them by mixing other colors. They are the source of all other colors." (Show Monica the pure red, yellow, and blue paints.)
2. **Model Color Mixing:** "Now for the magic. When you mix two primary colors, you get a secondary color. Watch this."
 - On the palette, mix a small amount of **Red** and **Yellow**. "What do we get? Orange! Orange is a secondary color."
 - Clean the brush. Mix **Yellow** and **Blue**. "And now we have... Green! Another secondary color."
 - Clean the brush. Mix **Blue** and **Red**. "Finally, we have... Purple (or Violet)! Our third secondary color."
3. **Model Drawing the Wheel:** Use the circular object to trace a circle on the paper. Use the ruler to divide it into 12 pizza-like slices. "This is our map for all the colors we're about to make."

"We Do" - Guided Practice (10 mins)

1. **Placing Primary Colors:** "Okay, Monica, let's set up your color wheel together. Pick a slice at the top for Yellow and paint it in. Now, count four slices over and paint that one Red. Count four more over and paint that one Blue. We've just placed our primary colors, leaving space between them." (Guide Monica as she does this.)
2. **Mixing Secondary Colors Together:** "Now, let's make a secondary color. Look at the empty slice exactly in the middle of Yellow and Red. What color do you think goes there?" (Guide her to say Orange). "Perfect! Let's mix yellow and red on your palette and paint it in that middle slice. Now you do the same for Green (between Yellow and Blue) and Purple (between Blue and Red)." (Work alongside her, offering tips on how much paint to use.)

"You Do" - Independent Creation & Discovery (10-15 mins)

1. **Introduce Tertiary Colors:** "You're doing great! The last step is to fill in the empty spots. These are called tertiary colors. You make them by mixing a primary color with the secondary color right next to it. For example, the slice between Yellow and Orange will be Yellow-Orange."
2. **Independent Work:** "Your turn to be the color wizard! I want you to mix the colors needed to fill in all the remaining six slices on your wheel. Take your time, wash your brush between colors, and see what beautiful new shades you can create."

Formative Assessment Check-in: As Monica works, ask questions like: "What two colors are you mixing to get that color?" or "What do you predict this mix will look like?" Observe her process and offer feedback on paint amounts or mixing technique if needed.

Part 3: Conclusion (5-10 minutes)

Share and Recap

"Monica, show me your amazing color wheel! It looks fantastic. Let's recap what we discovered."

- "What were our three primary colors?" (Red, Yellow, Blue)
- "How did you make green?" (Mixed blue and yellow)
- "Point to a tertiary color you created. How did you make it?"

Reinforce Real-World Relevance

"You've just created one of the most important tools an artist can have. Artists use this wheel to decide which colors will create a certain feeling, like using warm colors (reds, oranges) for an energetic painting or cool colors (blues, greens) for a calm one. They also use it to find 'complementary colors'—colors directly across from each other on the wheel—that make each other look brighter when used side-by-side. Your color wheel is a map to making powerful art."

Assessment

Summative Assessment

The completed 12-section color wheel serves as the primary assessment. The instructor will check it against the success criteria.

Success Criteria:

- The wheel is divided into 12 sections.
- Primary colors (Red, Yellow, Blue) are in the correct positions (four spaces apart).
- Secondary colors (Orange, Green, Purple) are correctly mixed and located between their corresponding primary colors.
- Tertiary colors (e.g., Red-Orange, Yellow-Green) are correctly mixed and fill the remaining spaces.
- The painting is reasonably neat, with colors staying mostly within their sections.

Additionally, ask Monica to verbally explain how she created one secondary and one tertiary color to assess her conceptual understanding.

Differentiation and Extension

Scaffolding for Younger or Struggling Learners:

- Provide a pre-printed color wheel template with the sections already drawn and labeled.
- Pre-mix the secondary colors (orange, green, purple) so the learner only has to focus on mixing the tertiary colors.
- Focus on just a 6-section wheel (primaries and secondaries only) to simplify the concept.

Extension for Advanced Learners (like Monica):

- **Tints and Shades:** Challenge Monica to create a new ring on her color wheel. On the inside, add white to each color to create a "tint." On the outside, add a tiny bit of black to create a "shade."
- **Complementary Colors Painting:** Ask Monica to choose one pair of complementary colors from her wheel (e.g., Red and Green, or Blue and Orange). On a new piece of paper, have her create a small, simple painting using ONLY that pair of colors (plus black and white) to see how they interact.