Activity: Colour chart survey



Learning objectives

To challenge their concepts of 'natural' and 'unnatural' colours.

10 mins



Teacher preparation

Site visit, risk assessment.

Equipment & resources

- Paint colour charts
- Digital cameras

This is a fantastic activity for pupils to do as part of discovery/nature walk or as an exercise within the school grounds.

Main activity

- Distribute colour charts amongst children and explain that the task is for them to find objects throughout their walk that are as close to the colours on their charts as possible.
- Some children will automatically dismiss some of the brighter, more 'unnatural' colours, but allow time for discussion.
- 3. Children will be able to find unexpected bright colours e.g. bright pink flowers discuss this with
- Have children record their findings –collect evidence where possible or take photographs of the objects beside the colour chart.
- 5. You can ask them how they felt about the activity. You can ask questions like:
 - How many colours did you find?
 - Which colour was the easiest to find? Why?
 - What colours did you find that surprised you?
 - What colours couldn't you find?
 - What colours did you think where 'unnatural'? Have you changed your mind? Why?
- Bring evidence/photographs back into the class. In groups, display findings in colour groups on large sheets of paper.

Safety points:

Site visit and risk assessments are essential for this activity. Ensure that the chosen area is free from hazards. Take great care when near water.

Possible extension:

- Have children draw something interesting from their trip using only the colours found on their colour palette.
- This is a widely used artistic concept known as "limited palette".
- Children could research Van Gogh and his 'rose period' or 'blue period'.
- How does the painting make you feel?
- Different moods can be attributed to different colours.

