

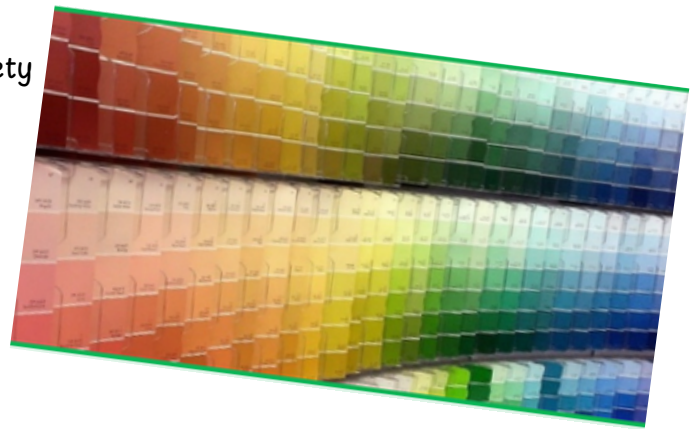
Colour Hunt

Nature's colors are gorgeous regardless of the season. What better way to enjoy nature than to explore all the colours on display. A Colour Hunt is a fun, open-ended activity for families to do together in the garden, park, or woods. Simply match chosen colours to those found in natural items. Using colour samples or objects increases the fun as you hunt for just the right match. It can be as spontaneous as a hunt for each colour on the clothing you are wearing to a more in-depth search using a full colour wheel with every known shade. Paint chips are a handy, portable, source of colours you can use over and over.

How to prepare a paint chip colour match hunt:

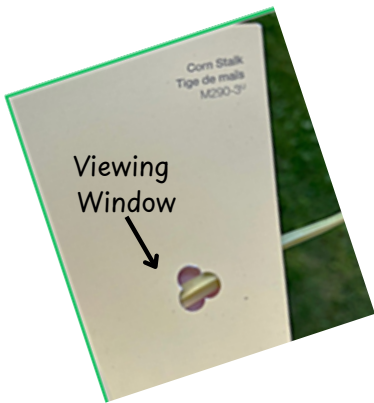
Materials:

- Single colour paint sample cards or chips in a variety of colours, a simple set of rainbow colours or more subtle and challenging colours - keep in mind while we think of brown for tree trunks when they are a combination of greys, black, amber, peach, tan, wine, ivory and so much, much, more!
- a single hole-punch or scissors
- metal ring clip(s)(think shower curtain) or ribbon



Steps:

1. Gather paint chips, they are found for free in the hardware/DIY store in the paint section. Select colours suitable for the age and ability of the participants. For example, preschoolers enjoy hunting for the colours of the rainbow while grade school children (and adults) are challenged to discover all the colours beyond green in a patch of grass. Each participant could have a set of colours or just 1 or 2 colours to match. Check with the store if you plan to take a large quantity.
2. Create a viewing window by punching a hole in the body of the chip. Punch 3 or 4 overlapping holes to enlarge the window. This makes it easier to compare an object's colour to the paint chip.
3. Punch a hole in one corner of the paint chip, avoid where the colour name is written (you want to still be able to read those for fun!) This step is helpful for storing your colours and will allow you to make sets of colours.
4. Arrange the chips in whatever order you choose.
5. Loop them onto the metal ring or thread onto the ribbon and secure.
6. Head into nature and and hunt for colours. Place your paint chip over an object so a portion is visible in the window, Keep searching for a perfect match. Remember to be kind; leave plants growing and critters where you found them.



Use your paint chip collection to compare different locations, or in the same location across different seasons. Perhaps this activity will spark a conversation on the purposes of colours in nature. A general enquiry may begin with, 'is the colour meant to hide, attract, or warn other creatures?'. Nature is constantly changing and this scavenger hunt is a great way to appreciate its beauty.

