



What Colour Is This?

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Activity Name: What Colour Is This?

Ages: 6-12 (also works for older students as well)

Activity Level: Low

Length of time: 20 to 30 min

Number of Participants: 10-15

Concept: This activity is great for developing observation skills and seeing that the forest is not homogeneous in colour. It helps to see the diversity and variation that will help in identifying different species.

Materials Required: Colour sample chips (can obtain from a local hardware or paint store. You may get them free if you ask and say what they are for).

Introduction: When you are in the area you wish to explore pose the question to the participants asking “What colour is the forest?” The usual answer is simply ‘green’. So this sets up the challenge. Participants are told that they are going to explore whether the answer is true or not.

Methods: Give each participant a paint chip (start with different shades of green) and ask them to find something natural in the forest that matches that paint chip exactly. Have them come back and identify what natural object matched closest to their paint chip. You have now established that while the forest has green, there are huge variations in the type of green found. Now ask them to look around a forested area and list all the

non green colours they can see. Provide each with a non green paint chip and have them find an object that closely matches it. Each participant explains what they have found and if they feel it really matches their paint chip. Participants can repeat this activity with another colour paint chip.



Tips for Teachers:

- This can be a great activity for exploring all the shades of green in the forest and seeing

the differences between different plants and trees. Also a good opportunity to discuss chlorophyll and its role.

- It also expands their perception of colours in natural settings, that there are more colours and variations in the same colours than first thought.

Background facts and information:

- Human eye can distinguish between 7 million and 10 million colour variations and part of our connection to a place is being able to perceive this variation in the landscape around us.