



Color in Nature Hunt

Explore the Arnold Arboretum and challenge yourself to find all the colors of the rainbow!

Close observation of the natural world often reveals beautiful colors in what might normally look like a one-color object. A tree trunk for instance, may contain varying shades and tints of brown, black, beige and green all on the same surface! Encourage the children to search the landscape and match color swatches from the worksheet to the real thing. Feel free to collect natural objects that are on the ground to add to a color collection bag!

Print copies of the double-sided worksheet for children to use during their visit.

Free Exploration

- Allow children to pick up natural materials from the ground or gently touch plant parts that are still attached without pulling them.
- Ask open-ended questions to get them interested in touching, smelling, and listening to how materials sound when interacted with.
- Make a collection of found materials to use as a game at the end.

Guided Exploration

- Use the Color In Nature Wheel to help children focus on hues and shades within a color. Ask them to find something orange, red, and then orange-red or red-orange, for example.
- When looking at leaves, compare the top side to the underside. How many different shades of green can you find on the leaves of the same plant?
- What colors are most common today? Which colors seems to be “missing” from nature today?
- Find a log or branch on the ground and examine to see how many colors from the wheel can be found on that one object.

Concluding Activities

- Take out all the items from your color collection bag and arrange them around the color wheel sheet. Discuss what you notice.
- Ask children if they think the season makes a difference in which colors are around? Why?
- Give the children colored pencils or markers with a range of colors, shades and tints to use in creating observational drawings of their favorite natural object. Tape the object next to their drawing to preserve the artifact.

Color in Nature Hunt

How many colors can you find in the landscape?

Use this color wheel to compare your finds and check each color off. Take pictures if you want to create a digital wheel!



How many colors from a traditional colorwheel can you find in nature? Go on a color hunt to find out!

- If your finds are on the ground, feel free to tape a sample next to its color on the color wheel.
- Which color is the hardest to find?
- Does the season make a difference in which colors are around?
- If you make a collection from found objects, create a new color wheel by arranging them to show the color progression.

