Colour Theory

KS2 Art · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

What colour do you get mixing red and yellow?

Step 1 · Red and yellow are both primary colours

Mixing them makes a secondary colour

Answer: Orange

Check: Orange sits between red and yellow on the colour wheel.

2. Now try one with the steps

Why can't you mix other colours to make red, yellow, or blue?

Step 1 · Think about what makes a colour 'primary'

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. Name the 3 primary colours.

2. What colour do you get mixing blue and yellow?

3. What do we call red, orange and yellow, which feel warm and energetic?

4. What do we call blue, green and purple, which feel calm and cool?

5. What colour do you get mixing red and blue?

6. Explain why artists use warm and cool colours to affect the mood of a painting.

4. Before you hand it in

Thinking any two colours mixed together make a 'secondary' colour, even two secondary colours.
Remember: primary + primary = secondary. Mixing secondaries makes different (tertiary) colours.

Assuming warm/cool colour categories are really about actual temperature.
Think of warm = fire/sun feeling, cool = water/ice feeling — it's about emotional effect, not heat.