

You will need:

- Color Wheel: Your color wheel can be for a group or individuals and placed on a piece of cardstock, poster board, or recycled cardboard. You can use the pictured wheel as a template to get you started.
- Glue or clothespins. Or you can lay the color wheel down on a flat surface and place the colorful finds on their color match.
- Foraged leaves, acorns, flowers, rocks, sticks, grasses, seed pods, etc.

The color wheel is a great way to incorporate art into a science investigation!

**Background:**

Using the color wheel provides an opportunity to investigate the plants and natural features around your home, school, or anywhere in your community. You can do this right outside your front door, take a walk around your neighborhood (even downtown), or visit a nearby park. Nature is everywhere. The color wheel can also be used indoors with already collected natural materials and arranged on a discovery or nature table.

Directions:

1. Create your own color wheel or download the picture from <https://d15r41jch086ke.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/2020-04/Color-Wheel.pdf>
2. Encourage children to explore their surroundings to see what colors they can find. Search the area and collect natural treasures like leaves, grasses, flowers, trees, sticks, rocks, etc. that can be shared and placed on the color wheel. Children needing a prompt can be challenged to match the colors on the wheel before they begin. Looking for nature's colors can also be incorporated into a quiet, mindful nature walk.
3. Children can work individually or in small group collaborations. This is also a great opportunity to develop vocabulary around color, plants, and the natural features in your outdoor environment.
4. Once the colorful treasures are gathered, return to a central spot for group sharing: What was found? What colors? How are the colors the same, different? Describe the different colors, and if they are unknown make up colors that seem like a good fit. What are the main colors? Is there a color you can't find? Do colors change at different times of the year? (It's fun to create a color wheel for each season.).
5. Ask the children if colors make them feel a certain way. Does green make you feel relaxed? Yellow, happy?
6. Once the Nature Wheel is completed, children can also share their color wheel experience in creative ways: continued conversations, reflective writing, art, song and dance, just to name a few.