

# COLOR MIXING CHALLENGE

**Target age group:** any age

**Purpose of activity:** to experiment with paint and discover color combinations that will make many different shades of the basic colors

**Materials needed:** copies of the pattern page printed onto heavy card stock paper, small paint brushes, paper towels, paper plates to use as palettes (or half-sheets of card stock), a bowl of water to rinse brushes, acrylic paints in these colors: red, blue, yellow, and white (NOTE: Try to purchase the most “true” colors you can-- a royal blue, a true red, a medium yellow.)

**Time needed to complete activity:** about 30 minutes (not including set-up and clean-up time)

## **How to prepare:**

Copy (or print out) a pattern page for each student. Give each student a paper plate containing a marble-sized blob of red, blue, yellow and white. (Have a few spare plates available in case they run out of mixing space on their first plate.) Also provide a paper towel and a bowl of rinse water. If a student runs out of a particular color of paint, give them a dab more. This will avoid wasting a lot of paint. (If you let the students fill their own paints, they will undoubtedly waste a lot of paint. In my experience, students almost always over-estimate how much paint they need.)

## **What to do:**

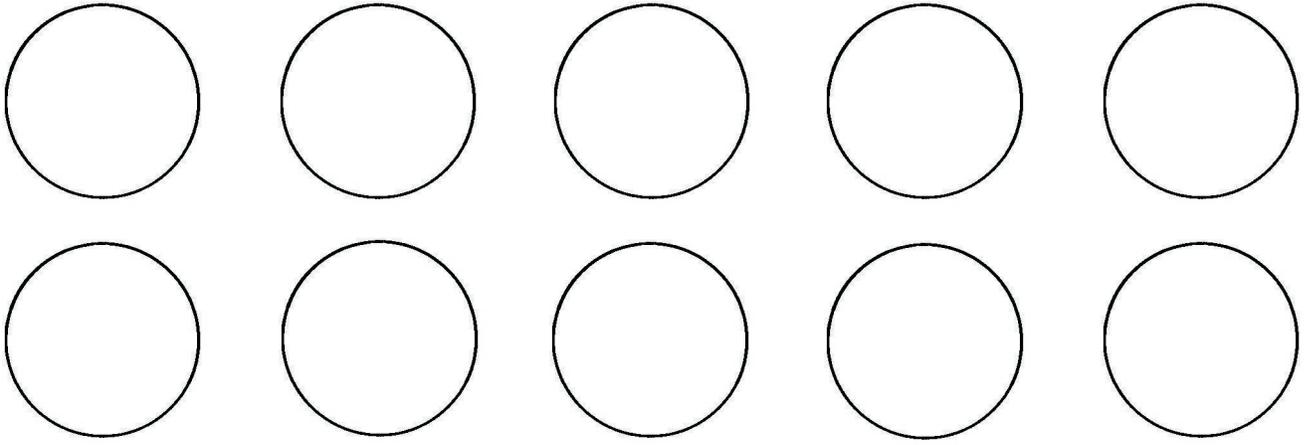
It's up to you (the adult in charge) how much instruction to give ahead of time. You may want to discuss color theory quite a bit, or you may want to emphasize the experimental nature of this activity and let the students discover color combinations for themselves. (It would probably be a help, though, if they at least knew these basic combinations: red+blue=purple, red+yellow=orange, yellow+blue=green)

Fill in each circle with a different shade of that color. How many different shades of blue can you mix? Green? Yellow? Red? Brown? Which one is the easiest? Most difficult? What happens when white is mixed in?

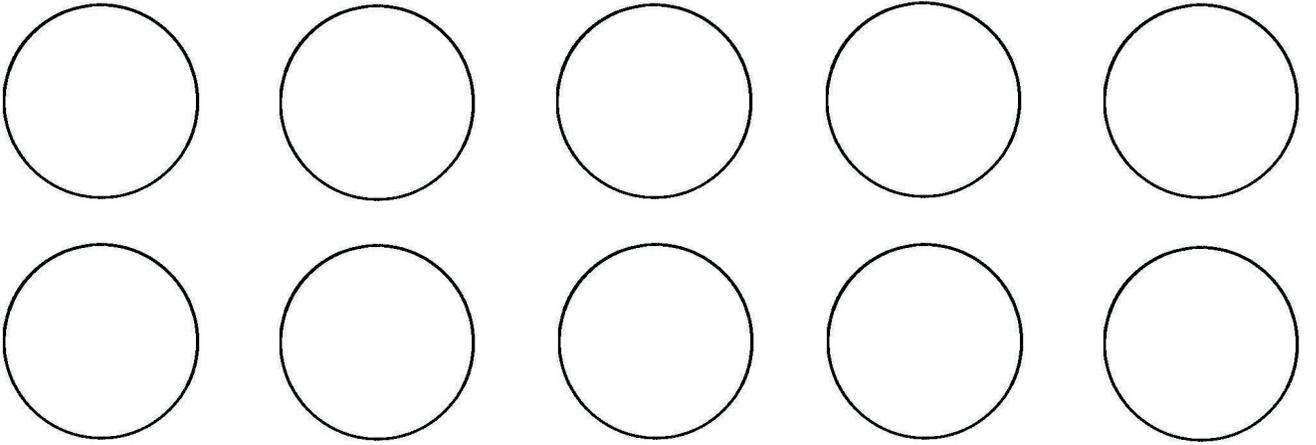
## **TIPS FOR THE STUDENTS:**

- 1) It doesn't take a lot of paint to change the shade or tint of a color. Start out with a tiny amount; mix it, and see what happens. If it's not enough to make a detectable difference, add a tiny bit more, then a tiny bit more, until the color changes.
- 2) Acrylic paint isn't water soluble once it is dry. If the paint is allowed to dry on the brushes it will ruin them. Make sure you rinse the brushes!
- 3) Don't mix too much of any one color. You only need enough paint to fill in the circle.

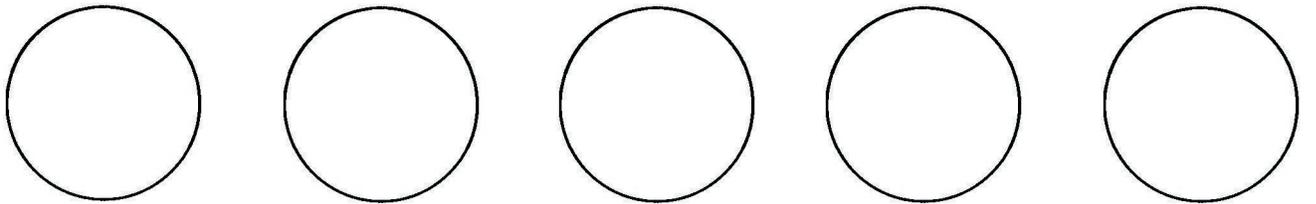
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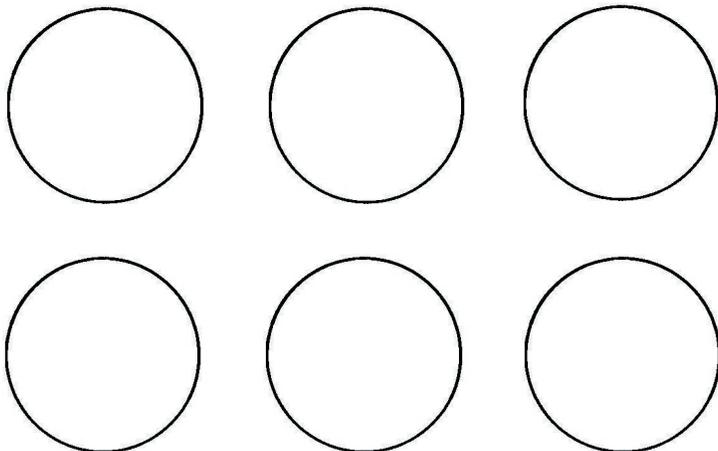
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BROWNS



YELLOWS

