Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Too Many Paints Make Mud

Circle group

Mixing paint is fun. Blue and yellow make green. Red and yellow make orange. Red and blue make purple. The new colors are bright.

What if you add more and more colors? Red, blue, yellow, and green go in one cup. The mix turns dull brown or gray. Artists call this mud.

Why? Paint takes in some light. Many paints take in even more light. Less light comes back to your eyes. So the color looks dark and dull.

Artists mix just two or three colors. A little white makes a color lighter.

Questions

1. What two colors make green?

_____

_____

2. What do artists call a dull brown mix?

_____

_____

3. What happens to light when you mix many paints?

_____

_____

4. What makes a color lighter?

_____

_____

5. Why do artists mix only two or three colors?

_____

_____

Words to know

mix: to stir things together
dull: not bright
artists: people who make paintings and other art

light: the brightness that lets your eyes see color

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Too Many Paints Make Mud

Triangle group

Mixing paint is fun. Blue and yellow make green. Red and yellow make orange. Red and blue make purple. Each new color is bright and clear.

But what if you keep adding more colors? Red, blue, yellow, and green all go into one cup. The mix turns a dull brown or gray. Artists call this mud.

Why does this happen? Each paint takes in some of the light that hits it. When you mix many paints, they take in even more light. Less light bounces back to your eyes, so the color looks dark and dull.

Artists mix just two or three colors at a time. A little white can also make a color lighter. That keeps the colors fresh.

Questions

1. What two colors make green?

_____

_____

2. What do artists call a dull brown mix?

_____

_____

3. What happens to light when you mix many paints?

_____

_____

4. What can you add to make a color lighter?

_____

_____

5. Why do artists mix only two or three colors at a time?

_____

_____

Words to know

mix: to stir things together
dull: not bright
artists: people who make paintings and other art
light: the brightness that lets your eyes see color

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Too Many Paints Make Mud

Square group

Mixing paint is an enjoyable way to discover new colors. Blue and yellow combine to make green. Red and yellow make orange, and red and blue make purple. Each of these new colors looks bright and clear.

But what happens if you keep stirring in more and more colors? Suppose red, blue, yellow, and green all end up in the same cup. The mixture turns a dull brown or gray, which artists call mud.

The reason has to do with light. Every paint absorbs some of the light that shines on it. When you blend many paints together, they absorb even more light. Less light bounces back to your eyes, so the color looks dark and dull.

That is why artists usually mix only two or three colors at a time. Adding a little white can also make a color lighter and help keep it fresh.

Questions

1. Which two colors combine to make green?

_____

_____

2. What do artists call a dull brown or gray mixture?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the light when you blend many paints together?

_____

_____

4. What can you add to make a color lighter?

_____

_____

5. Why do artists usually mix only two or three colors at a time?

_____

_____

Words to know

mix: to stir things together
dull: not bright
artists: people who make paintings and other art
light: the brightness that lets your eyes see color

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Why Too Many Paints Make Mud

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Why Too Many Paints Make Mud

Easier · 93 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.6

1. Blue and yellow.
2. Mud.
3. The paints take in more light, so less light comes back to your eyes.
4. A little white.
5. It keeps the colors bright and stops mud.

Triangle: Why Too Many Paints Make Mud

This passage · 120 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. Blue and yellow.
2. Mud.
3. The paints take in more light, so less light bounces back to your eyes.
4. A little white.
5. It keeps the colors bright and stops them from turning to mud.

Square: Why Too Many Paints Make Mud

Harder · 146 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. Blue and yellow.
2. Mud.
3. The paints absorb more light, so less light bounces back to your eyes.
4. A little white.
5. It keeps the colors bright and stops the mixture from turning to mud.