

SKILL

Colour mixing with watercolour coloured pencils

Time

45 min to 1 hour

Resources

Per group of children:
Box of watercolour pencils

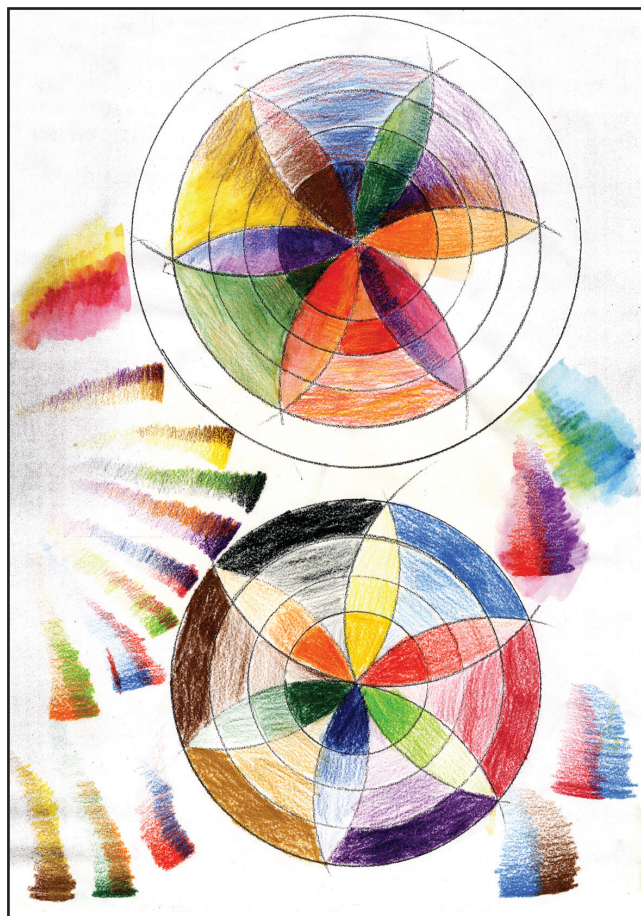
Per pair of children:
1 water pot

For each child:

Sketchbook or A4 cartridge paper
A fine short-handled brush
Pair of compasses and a pencil or
copies of resource sheet 9, page 128

National Curriculum

4a,b



Jack Perham, Year 5

Introduction

You can mix and blend colours with coloured pencils, crayons and pastels as well as with paints. Some coloured pencils and crayons are water-soluble, which means that when they are wetted, the colours move and blend.

These pencils are watercolour pencils. The coloured 'lead' is made up of solid watercolour pigment and, after you have drawn a mark, you can wet it with a brush dipped in water and the pigment will turn into paint, just as it does when you put a wet brush on a tablet of paint in a paint box.

Practical activity

- * The children should make their own compass patterns in their sketchbooks if they are not using the photocopied resource.
- * First they should try out the different colours in their sketchbooks.
- * Show the children how to make a kind of 'tornado' by using the side of the pencil rather than the point, drawing heavily to begin with and gradually getting lighter to get the full range of tones.
- * When the children have got the hang of this, tell them to colour in each section of their compass pattern, colouring in the first section the deepest tone and making the next three successively lighter.
- * Then tell them to do some tornadoes in different colours, and then draw some more in different colours partly over the top of the first ones. Suggest they try a dark colour over a lighter one, such as brown over yellow, and then a lighter colour over a darker one, to see which blends the best.
- * They could try out different colour combinations around the edges of the paper.
- * Next, demonstrate how to dip the brush into the water, stroke it on the side of the water pot to remove excess water, and then gently wet the colours with the tip of the brush so that they blend.
- * Explain that they will need to wash their brushes between colours, just as they would with paint.
- * Tell the children to blend some or all of their coloured tornadoes.
- * Ask them to try to make four different tones of a colour within the shapes of the compass pattern.