

## People Colors

Instructor: Kathy Dyce

Students: K-2

Objective:

1. The students will be introduced to the concept of multiculturalism.
2. The students will explore “colors” of people in the book *The Colors of Us* by Karen Katz.

Materials:

1. The book *The Colors of Us* (1999) by Karen Katz
2. Drawing paper and chart paper
3. Boxes of crayons
4. Ingredients and materials for Rainbow Stew

Procedures:

Session One:

1. The teacher will lead students in a brainstorming session about the colors they know.
2. The list of colors the students know will be put on a chart titled “ABC Colors.” For examples, A—azure, B-Blue, brown, black, C—coral
3. Students can look for more color names on crayons and continue to fill out the chart during class time.

Session Two:

1. The teacher will introduce the idea—colors of people—and create a list of students’ responses to “colors” of people.
2. The teacher will read aloud the book *The Colors of us*, pausing to allow students to respond to the colors presented in the story.
3. The class will develop a list of the colors from the story. For example, the list says, “Character/Colors/Foods.” The story example that could be cited is “Sonia is a light brown just like creamy peanut butter.”
4. Students will then use the crayons to draw pictures of themselves.
5. Students will create a color name for their picture along with something they eat or something in their environment.

Extensions:

1. The students can explore the characters presenting in the story, looking at cultural differences and similarities.
2. For science lessons, the students can explore the colors of the light spectrum and explore the colors of the rainbow (ROY G. BIV).
3. The class can make “rainbow stew.” (*See recipe below*)

## Rainbow Stew Recipe

### Ingredients:

Cornstarch sugar

Water

Mixing bowls

Mixing spoons

Heat source

Duct tape

Heavy-duty sandwich bags

Red, yellow and blue food coloring.

### Vocabulary Words (*Review prior to making the stew*)

color names

combine

stir

transition words

mix

change

measurement words

blend

knead

names of ingredients

### Steps:

1. Prepare the following mixture (doubled here for 24 “portions”). First, mix 90 ml (1/3c) sugar and 250 ml (1C)) cornstarch. Then add 1 liter (4C) cold water. Heat the mixture until it begins to thicken, stirring constantly. Allow it to cool.
2. Divide the mixture equally into 3 containers, then add food coloring—one color per container—until the mixtures reach the color intensity desired.
3. Add 3 heaping tablespoons full of each color to a heavy-duty sandwich bag.
4. Seal the bag and tape it closed. Label each bag with a student’s name.
5. Have the children knead their bag, mixing the colors into a rainbow stew.
6. Hang the finished rainbow stew on the window to see the vibrant colors created.

You can also experiment by putting different amounts of colored mixtures in the bag and see color variations that may occur. Cool or heat the mixture and see what happens. This mixture will need refrigeration if you plan on keeping it for a long period of time because it may get moldy.