

Color Wheels

Materials

Cardboard or stiff paper such as from old file folders
Crayons, markers, or paint
Pencils

Procedure

1. Cut out several circles each about 3 inches across.
2. Divide the circles into 3 or 4 equal parts, and color the parts different colors. For example, have one that is made of three parts, one part being red, one part green, and the third part blue. Make another circle that has two red parts opposite each other and two green.
3. Make a small hole in the center of each circle and push a short pencil through the hole, with the pencil tip pointing down away from the colored side.
4. Amazingly, when you spin the little color "tops", the colors blend, and you see a new color. Can you see white when spinning green, red, and blue?
5. Try mixing different colors on more wheels to see what new colors you can get when you spin!

Mixing light of different colors (such as this experiment simulates) creates much different results than mixing paints of the same colors. For example, mixing red, green, and blue paint makes a brown mess, yet mixing the same colors of light will produce a near-white light.

