

# Create a Color Wheel

Explore how to mix colors by making a play dough color wheel!

## Materials Needed:

Red, yellow, and blue play dough.\*

*Optional:* Color wheel printable.

\*To make your own play dough, try this recipe:

[www.thebestideasforkids.com/playdough-recipe/](http://www.thebestideasforkids.com/playdough-recipe/)

## Instructions:

**Step 1:** Roll a ball from each of the **primary** colors (**red**, **yellow**, and **blue**). If using the color wheel template, place each ball on its matching color. It is okay if the colors of the play dough and color wheel aren't a perfect match. There are many different shades of each color!



**Step 2:** Mix **secondary** colors (**orange**, **green**, and **violet**). Roll pieces of red and yellow dough together until the two colors become orange. Do the same for yellow and blue to make green, and blue and red to make violet. Set each secondary color on your color wheel.

**Step 3:** To make **tertiary** colors, mix a primary color with a secondary color. For example:

**red** + **orange** = **red-orange**

**yellow** + **green** = **yellow-green**

**blue** + **violet** = **blue-violet**

Fill in the rest of the color wheel with tertiary colors.

**Follow your child(ren)'s lead.** Each child may be more or less interested in mixing different colors. Experiment at your own pace and keep it fun!

Use your rainbow play dough to make clay sculptures or other craft projects!



# Color Wheel Printable

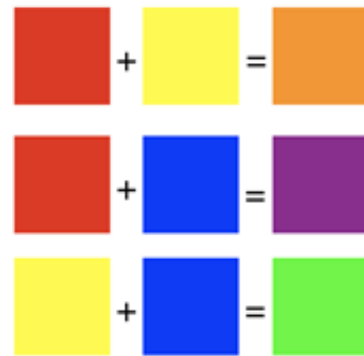


*Image: Wikimedia Commons.*

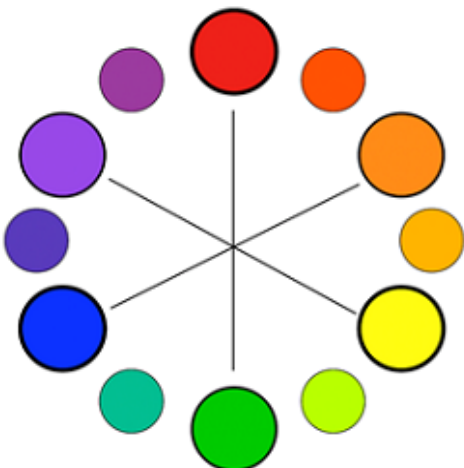
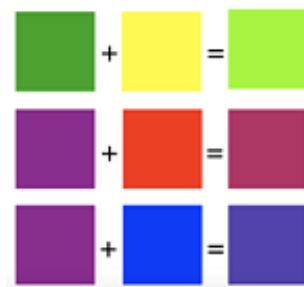
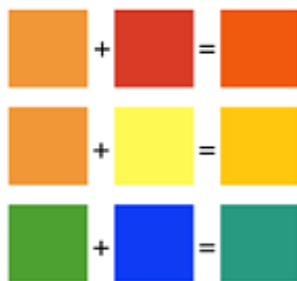
# Explore Colors

Some materials let certain colors pass through them, and absorb other colors. These materials are called dyes or pigments. The **primary** colors of pigment are **red**, **yellow**, and **blue**. The **primary** colors can be mixed to create other colors.

A **primary** color + a **primary** color = a **secondary** color. The **secondary** colors are **orange**, **green**, and **violet**.



You can mix **secondary** colors with **primary** colors to make **tertiary** colors. The **tertiary** colors are **red-orange**, **yellow-orange**, **blue-green**, **yellow-green**, **red-violet**, and **blue-violet**.



If you were to draw a straight line across the color wheel from one color to the one directly across from it, you would find that color's opposite. Opposite colors are called **complementary** colors. For example, **red** and **green** are **complementary** colors. Can you name any other pairs of complementary colors?