Read the story about the colours of the rainbow.

Long, long ago, the colours in the rainbow started to quarrel. Each one said that it was the most important one.

Violet said “I am the colour of humility and wisdom. I am the most important.”

Indigo spoke softly, “I am the colour of silence. You need me for peace and prayer. So I am the most important one.”

Blue interrupted, “I am the colour of water. Water makes up life. Without me you would be nothing.”

Green said, “I am the colour of nature. That is why I am the best.”

Yellow smiled, “I bring warmth to the world. The sun, the moon, and the stars are all yellow.”

Orange laughed, “I bring luck and destiny in your life. Surely, I am the most important.”

Red shouted, “I am the sign of strength and authority.”

Suddenly there was thunder and lightning and it began to rain heavily. The seven colours - violet, indigo blue, green, yellow, orange, and red - all heard the angry voice of the Rain.

“You stupid, foolish colours, why are you fighting among yourselves? Don’t you know each of you is important?”

The lightening stopped and the thunder quieted.

The Rain said, “Listen to me. Each of you has a special purpose. When I stop the storm, you must all hold hands and help each other. You will help each other stretch across the sky to make the rainbow. The rainbow is a special sign. It shows that if we all work together and help each other, even with our differences, we will all shine.”

The colours understood their mistake. The storm ended and the colours happily joined hands.
Activity #1 Discussing the Story

Why were the colours fighting among themselves? What did the Rain say to the quarrelling colours of the rainbow? Did the colours listen to the rain?

Activity #2 Favorite Colours

What colour do you like best?

_________________________

Make a list of things you own in that colour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.</th>
<th>4.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activity #3 Helping in the Classroom

All the colours were able to help make a rainbow. Everyone can help in some way. Draw yourself in the picture doing something to help in your classroom.

Write sentences to explain what you are doing in your picture.

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Activity #4 Talking about Helping.

Look at the pictures your classmates drew. What were three ideas for helping that other classmates drew?

1. 

2. 

3. 

Activity #5 Talking about Helping - Together.

Like the colours of the rainbow that worked together, sometimes things work better if we help each other. Look at the drawings and sentences of your classmates. Find one idea that would work better if you helped! Explain your idea for helping with your classmate’s idea.
Activity #6 Mixing Colours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mix Red &amp; Blue</th>
<th>Mix Red &amp; Yellow</th>
<th>Mix Blue &amp; Yellow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name Your Colour</td>
<td>Name Your Colour</td>
<td>Name Your Colour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mix Green &amp; Black</td>
<td>Mix Orange &amp; Purple</td>
<td>Mix Red &amp; Blue &amp; Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name Your Colour</td>
<td>Name Your Colour</td>
<td>Name Your Colour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Find out what your classmate named their colours. Did you have different names for some of the colours? Which colour and name do you like best? _______________________________________.

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Activity #7 What People Say about Colours.

Here are a few quotes from famous people about colours. The quotes are interesting, but the people did not explain what they meant. Circle one quote that interests you, then explain what you think it means.

1. Colours are the smiles of nature. - Leigh Hunt

2. Life is about using the whole box of crayon. - Ru Paul

3. Artists are just children who refuse to put down their crayons. - Al Hirschfeld

Circle the quote you think is most interesting. What do you think it means?

Activity #8 Compare Ideas.

Share your quote and your meaning with your classmates. Find out how many students chose each quote. Record the number on the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quote</th>
<th>Number of Students Who Chose Each Quote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Colours are the smiles of nature. - Leigh Hunt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Life is about using the whole box of crayon. - Ru Paul</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Artists are just children who refuse to put down their crayons. - Al Hirschfeld</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which quote was chosen by most students?

How many students chose the same quote you did?

Can you find one student who chose the same quote, but wrote a different meaning? Can you find a student who wrote an interesting meaning for a quote you did not choose? Record one of these ideas here.

≈≈
Here is another quote about colour from a famous artist named Vincent Van Gogh. He lived in the Netherlands from 1853-1890. These are three of his paintings. The last one is a self-portrait. That means that it is a painting that Van Gogh painted of himself. Look at his paintings carefully. The way an artist paints, the colors and shapes he chooses are part of his style. Van Gogh’s paintings are all of different subjects, but the style of all three is the same. Can you name three things that all the paintings have in common?

1. 

2. 

3. 

Van Gogh said, “There is no blue without yellow and without orange.” Looking at his paintings, what do you think he meant?
Activity #10 Observe, Think, Explain, Do.

This is a drawing from one of Van Gogh’s most famous paintings called The Bedroom at Arles. Van Gogh stayed in the bedroom for some time and he painted the bedroom at least three times. After looking at his other paintings and thinking about his style, how do you think Van Gogh would color the bedroom? Will you color the bedroom the way Van Gogh would or will you color it differently. Explain your ideas about Van Gogh’s choice of color, then explain your choices for colors. Color the picture as you wish.

You may hear a short talk on Van Gogh’s bedroom paintings at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaCWcYXj0
**The Crayon Box That Talked**  
*By Shane DeRolf*

While walking into a toy store  
The day before today  
I overheard a crayon box  
With many things to say  
“I don’t like Red!” said Yellow  
And Green said “Nor do I”  
“And no one here likes Orange  
But no one knows just why”  
“We are a box of crayons  
that doesn’t get along  
Said Blue to all the others  
“Something here is wrong”

Well, I bought that box of crayons  
And took it home with me  
And laid out all the colors  
So the crayons all could see…  
They watched me as I colored  
With Red and Blue and Green  
And Black and White and Orange  
And every color in between

They watched as Green became the grass  
And Blue became the sky  
The Yellow sun was shining bright  
On White clouds drifting by  
Colors changing as they touched  
Becoming something new  
They watched me as I colored  
They watched me till I was through  
And when I finally finished  
I began to walk away  
And as I did the crayon box  
Had something more to say

“I do like Red!” said Yellow  
And Green said, “so do I”  
And Blue you were terrific!  
So high up in the sky  
“We are a box of crayons.  
Each one of us unique  
But when we get together  
The picture is more complete.”
Activity #11 Read, Notice, Create.

What are some of the things the crayons said to each other at the beginning of the poem?

“_______________________________________________________________” said Yellow

And Green said “___________________________________________________________”

“________________________________________________________________________”

Said Blue to all the others “_______________________________________________.”

Notice that in the middle of the poem, the crayons watched while the poet colored. The poet does not

tell us what they said, but this is a very talkative box of crayons! Write a dialog showing what you think

the crayons might have said while the poet worked. Add as many lines as you need for your ideas.

**The Crayon Box That Kept Talking**

Characters: Red, Blue, Green, Black, White, Orange

Activity #12 - Work Together:

Combine your dialog ideas with the ideas of five other classmates to produce a new, longer dialog. Assign a part to each student in the group and act out your dialog for the class.

Activity #13 - Idioms - Read, Think, Explain

*Read the example sentences that use the idiom, “once in a blue moon”.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I only eat sweets once in a blue moon. I really try to take care of myself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The only part of the work I didn’t like was, once in a blue moon, we’d have to stay all night doing paperwork.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once in a blue moon, you might get lucky, but the best way to get what you want is to work hard.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Think about the sentences. What do you think “once in a blue moon” means?*
**Read the example sentences that use the idiom, “show true colours”**.

When people are under stress, they show their true colours.

He seemed very loving before the wedding, but afterwards, he began to show his true colours.

Your willingness to show your true colours proves you have nothing to hide.

*Think about the sentences. What do you think “show true colours” means?*

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**Read the example sentences that use the idiom, “pass with flying colours”**.

I’m ready for the test now. I should pass with flying colours.

It was his last challenge and he passed with flying colours.

The only reason she didn’t pass with flying colours was that she was upset or nervous.

*Think about the sentences. What do you think “pass with flying colours” means?*

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**Read the example sentences that use the idiom, “get the green light”**.

If you want to have a party, you’ll need to get the green light from both parents.

We have the green light now, so we can go build the stadium.

I’m happy to say we’ve gotten the green light to go ahead with the sale.

*Think about the sentences. What do you think “get the green light” means?*
Read the example sentences that use the idiom, “golden opportunity”.

She knew enough to take a golden opportunity like that when she had the chance.

Don’t wait for your golden opportunity. Invent it.

Now he has another golden opportunity in the Olympics in his own country.

Think about the sentences. What do you think “golden opportunity” means?

Activity #17 - Tongue Twisters

Say this as fast as you can.

Red bulb blue bulb. Red bulb blue bulb.

The black bug bit a big black bear. But where is the big black bear that the big black bug bit?

Write two more tongue twisters. See if your classmates can say them.

Listen to the tongue twisters your classmates wrote.

Which tongue twister was the hardest for you to say?

Activity #18 - Find More Sources

Use the internet or library resources to collect more information on colours. Display what you find on the class bulletin board. Repeat activities from the unit that you enjoyed with new stories, poems, or articles.