



Revised 4/16/20  
Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

## Color Hunt

**Kindergarten**

**45 Minutes**

**Spring**

### Summary

A student-led activity focused on colors found on the prairie. Students listen to *Planting a Rainbow* and sing a song about colors. Predictions are made as to the different colors they think they can find in the prairie when groups go outside. Upon returning inside, they share their findings and create a T-chart to organize and observe the data they've collected. They speculate why they may have found more of one color than another. They share any surprises or discoveries related to their search for colors on the prairie.

### Next Generation Science and Iowa Core Standards

#### Next Generation Science

- **K-LS1-1**
  - Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.
- **K-ESS3-1**
  - Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals (including humans) and the places they live.

#### Literacy

##### Reading and Literature

- **RL.K.10**
  - Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.

##### Speaking and Listening

- **SL.K.1**



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- Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
- **SL.K.2**
  - Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.
- **SL.K.6**
  - Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.

## Materials and Resources

- *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert
- Sandwich packs
- Color Cards
- White board
- Dry erase marker
- Large poster board/butcher-paper T-chart (see example)

## Presentation

Introduce yourself and explain that today students will be learning about the colors in the prairie. They will first read a book and talk about colors, and then they will go outside to search for colors and collect data like other naturalists.

## Directions

1. Create a T-chart and on one side write the words, “We think...” and on the other side write, “We found...” Underneath the side that says, “We think...” record the students’ answers to some of the following questions. Ask students if they were to go out on the prairie right now which colors do they think they would find? Record their answers on the board.
2. Tell students that they are now ready to go outside. When they are outside, they will be searching for different colors with their adult leaders. As they find certain colors, they will whisper to their adult chaperon which color



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they found. The adult chaperon will then give them a paper chip of that color to hold in their hands. When working in the small groups, only one child at a time should tell the chaperon the color they found and everyone else in the group will need to be looking at the item and color that he/she discovered.

3. Have students line up. Before heading outside, remind students that they are expected to behave like naturalists. Naturalists are quiet, full of wonder, inquisitive, observant, and calm.
4. When the students return inside, have them sit in a circle around a large t-chart on the floor. The t-chart contains all the colors that could be found in the prairie which include blue, green, black, orange, yellow, white, grey, purple and red. Have a few students at a time match their colored squares to the appropriate color column and place it there. Afterwards, have student sit down and look at all the different colors they found.
5. Have students count with their classroom teacher all the squares under each of colors on the chart. Record the numbers and colors on the board.
6. When students finish counting, ask them which color did they find the most of outside? Circle the color(s) they found the most of outside. Then ask them, how did they know they found the most of that color? Lastly, ask why they think they found the most of that color?
7. Next, ask them if they did this during the winter, which color would they find the most of? In the summertime? In the fall time? Explain that throughout the seasons, the colors on the prairie change and even the staff here at Neal Smith NWR tracks the colors of the prairie to learn what is happening outside. Show students photos of the prairie in different seasons.
8. Thank students for helping to collect data on prairie colors. Explain that students can observe and look at colors in nature no matter where they are or what they are doing. Colors can be found nearly everywhere, and they are always worthy of exploring!

