Color Mixing

Drawing Exploration
In this lesson, we will explore what happens when we add white and black to our primary and mixed colors.

**You will need:**
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Primary colors: red, yellow, blue
- black and white
- Paper
- Any kind of light color paper, scrap paper, notebook paper, or an envelope
We will start drawing with primary colors: red, yellow and blue.
Then we will mix two colors at a time to make orange, green and purple.
Now we will add white to our colors and see how they change. What do you notice?

Yes! The white made the colors lighter.

We call these light colors pastels.
Now let’s see what the **black** crayon can do.

Black is a strong, dark color. When white is added, it becomes **gray**.
Continue to make shapes and lines with your colors. See how many different colors can you mix with your white, black, red, yellow and blue crayons!

Explore pressing hard and light with your crayons. Try to cover the page.

My drawing has circles, leaf shapes, straight lines, and curvy lines.

What kinds of lines and shapes will you make with your colors?
More things to try

After you experiment mixing color on white paper, you can try mixing colors on different color papers or backgrounds.

Do your colors look the same as when you mixed them on white stationary or notebook paper?

How are they different?

You can also experiment mixing other color crayons together that you have in your home.
You can make a list of the new colors you find.

You can write down ‘recipes’ or ‘formulas’ to remember how you mixed certain colors. In that way you can mix them again!

You can also try to mix colors that you find in your home – like the color of your t-shirt, your pants, or the colors of some of your favorite toys.
Reflection

What colors did you mix with your crayons?

How did you mix them?

How did you make them light or dark?

Inspiration

McArthur Binion uses wax crayons to create abstract drawings.

Look closely at this drawing.

What colors do you see?

How do you think the artist mixed those colors?

If you like, you can use your crayons to mix the colors you see in this drawing.

For more examples of Binion’s artwork, visit: McArthur Binion