

My Many Colored Days: Exploring Light, Color and Feelings

Elizabeth Kerr, First Grade Teacher
Bain Elementary School



Overview

My first grade students studied light and its relationship to color. We looked at how to control light and explored how white light can be broken down into the colors of the rainbow. Then, students studied how color is used in literature to convey feeling, specifically with this text.



In this activity, students built Light and Shadow Towers. They worked to control the path of light and only have certain sides of their blocks in sunlight.

Students learned that materials can be opaque, translucent or transparent.

Next, students worked to discover what white light is made of, using a light box and prisms. Students also worked on diffracting light other ways.

Acknowledgements

Charlotte Teachers Institute, The Art and Chemistry of Light, Dr. Tom Schmedake, The North Carolina Humanities Council, The students in my 2018-2019 class!

Last, students worked with complementary colors using the color wheel. These colors offer the eye the greatest contrast.

Students also used multicolored light filters to create their own colors.

My students gained a basic understanding of light and how it interacts with certain materials.

We learned where color comes from and why we see color.

We know our days are many colored!

