



### Colour

### Year 1

This unit introduces the children to the element of colour. This concept is then frequently revisited throughout the whole of the curriculum. The lessons use seminal works of **Mondrian, Bruegel the Elder, Van Gogh, Vermeer and Monet** to explore concepts and vocabulary which relate to colour: primary and secondary colours; warm and cool colours; tints and shades. This allows the children to start to investigate the art of painting. The activities in the unit are designed to allow them to practise good mixing technique and brush control. Teacher demonstration is crucial to afford the children every chance to succeed with these activities.

Questioning in the lesson planning encourages children to assess critically how artists can use colour and paint in different ways to produce different effects, including evoking different emotional responses and creating weather and water effects. Towards the end of the unit children explore using tints and shades and varying brushstrokes to paint water culminating with experimentation using mixed media. The children are also introduced to evaluating their own work.

#### Lesson Sequencing

Lesson 1 introduces the children to the primary colours and what is special about these using Mondrian's *Composition with Red, Yellow and Blue*. In lesson 2 pupils learn that we can mix secondary colours from the primary colours. They also learn that colours can be described as warm and cool by comparing Bruegel's *Hunters in the Snow* with Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*. In lesson 3 pupils explore the concept of tints and shades looking at how Vermeer uses tints and shades of blue to paint the headscarf in *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. In lesson 4 they explore how artists can use tints and shades to paint water by studying Hockney's *A Bigger Splash*. They continue this exploration in lesson 5 by looking at two paintings of the sea by Monet and are introduced to the idea that artists use different brushstrokes to create different effects. In lesson 6 they conclude the unit by experimenting with different brushstrokes and mark-making using mixed media to create pictures which depict a stormy sea.

**Key concepts** covered in this unit are primary colours, secondary colours, warm and cool colours, tints and shades and using different brushstrokes.

**Key skills** covered in this unit are how to mix paint colours and use a brush. This includes:

- Holding a brush like a pencil to give good control.
- Controlling the amount of water/paint that is loaded onto the brush.
- Pulling the brush smoothly.
- Painting accurately inside the lines.
- Washing the brush before loading it with a new colour.
- Mixing colours thoroughly in a mixing palette.
- Adding white or black to a colour gradually to create tints and shades.
- Experimenting with a brush to create different brushstrokes.

Drawing skills are also covered in this unit. This includes experimenting creating different marks in pencil and in wax.

The use of wax resist is also introduced in this unit.

**Key processes** covered in this unit are analysing other artists' work, using the imagination to create their own work and evaluating their own work.

**Key disciplinary concepts** covered in this unit include understanding that colour and the application of paint and other materials can be used to convey different moods and effects, for example conveying the weather or the nature of the sea. The unit also explores that artists can use different materials to create pictures.

### Outcomes

Children carry out a separate task in each lesson of this unit. Four of these can be described as 'convergent' tasks (following guided instructions so that pupils reach broadly similar outcomes as each other). These are:

- Creating a painting using primary colours to imitate the work of Mondrian
- Creating a sunflower in the style of Van Gogh by mixing and painting a template with a secondary colour (orange) and applying collage using warm colours
- Creating a colour chart which shows tints and shades of blue getting gradually lighter/darker
- Painting a rough seascape using tints and shades of blue and a variety of brushstrokes

Two of the tasks which the children undertake can be described as 'divergent' (using specified techniques but with unspecified endpoints). These are:

- Painting a splash using wax crayons and tints and shades of blue
- Using mixed media (paint and ink washes, pencils and wax resist) to create a stormy scene