



Peter Paul Rubens and Workshop (Flemish, 1577 - 1640), *The Flight of Lot and his Family from Sodom*, c. 1613-1615. Oil on canvas, 86 3/4 x 96 in. Bequest of John Ringling, 1936. SN218

This painting, completed by Peter Paul Rubens and his workshop between 1613 and 1615, shows Rubens' mastery of emotional expression. Rubens uses contrasting colors as well as a vivid white light to accentuate the drama of the scene. The painting is full of rich, vibrant hues.

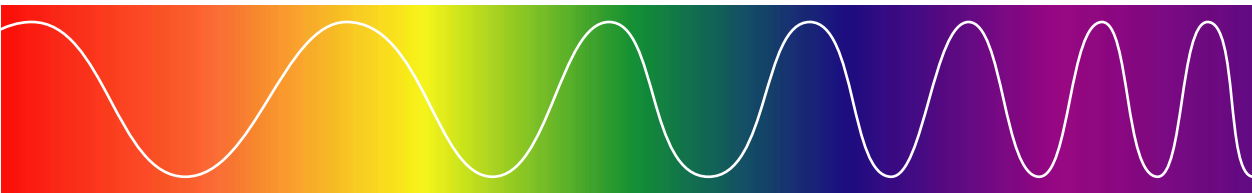
Color is something that we see when light reflects off an object. The object absorbs some of the light, and the wavelengths it does not absorb are reflected back out. Our eyes see this reflected light as color.

**Color has three main characteristics:**

**HUE**            What the color is  
(red, yellow, blue, etc.)

**VALUE**        How light or dark the color is

**INTENSITY**    How bright or dull the color is



## STANDARDS:

VA.3.S.2.1

VA.68.S.2.1

VA.912.S.1.7

## THE SCIENCE OF COLOR

When light is reflected off an object, we see that light as color. We see a difference in color based on how much light the object absorbs, and how long the reflected wavelength is. Light waves with long wavelengths are seen as red. Short wavelengths are seen as violet. The colors in between follow the rainbow. This is called the visible spectrum. Rainbows contain the entire visible spectrum, turning white light into dazzling colors.

You can turn white light into a rainbow at home! Shine a flashlight through a glass of water to transform light from white to color. Can you change the intensity of the color?

# ACTIVITY

## COLOR WHEEL PAINTING

**MATERIALS:**  
COLOR WHEEL BELOW; RED, YELLOW, BLUE  
PAINT; PAINTBRUSH

**DIFFICULTY LEVEL:**  
SIMPLE

Artists use the color wheel as a tool when mixing and studying hue. Colors are classified based on how they are mixed and made. There are three main classifications of color hue:

### PRIMARY COLORS

The three primary colors are red, yellow, and blue. These cannot be made by mixing other colors.

### SECONDARY COLORS

The three secondary colors are orange, green, and purple. These are made by mixing two primary colors.

### TERTIARY COLORS

The six tertiary colors are red-orange, yellow-orange, yellow-green, blue-green, blue-violet, and red-violet. These are made by mixing a primary color with a secondary color. Tertiary colors always list the primary color first.

**NOW TRY MIXING COLORS TO CREATE YOUR OWN COLOR WHEEL!**

## DIRECTIONS

1. Use red, blue and yellow to fill in the primary colors.
2. Mix two primary colors together in equal parts to create a secondary color. Repeat for all secondary colors.
3. Mix a secondary color with a primary color to create a tertiary color.
4. Repeat for all tertiary colors.
5. For younger students, use crayons or colored pencils to color in the color wheel.

