

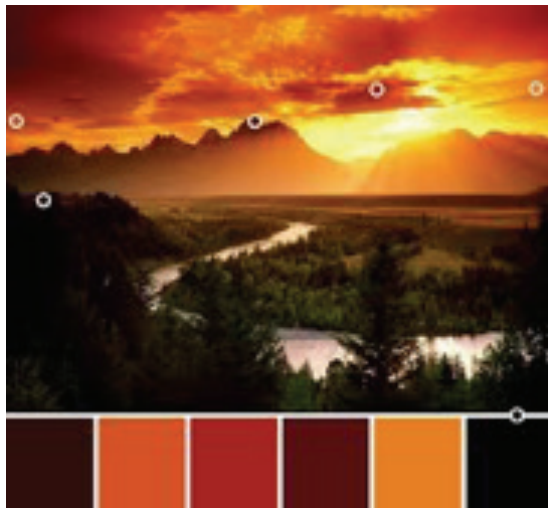
Nature's Color Palette

Designed for grades 6-8

"Nature always wears the color of the spirit." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Why do some people love a moody overcast day? Why does a brilliant sunrise bring joy? How do the colors and moods of nature influence you? In this activity, you will explore these questions by creating your own color palette and word cloud inspired by the natural world.

Below are two examples of color palettes from National Parks. Artists and designers use color palettes all the time to add visual interest to their work, to evoke emotions, and to create a sense of balance.



Grand Teton National Park Palette



Yellowstone National Park Palette

READY Graphite pencil, colored pencils, art journal or a blank white sheet of paper, clipboard or book

Optional: Watercolor paints and a small paintbrush; crayons and markers can also be used.

GET SET Put on some sunscreen and a hat, grab a water bottle and a snack, and head outside to find a location that inspires you!

GO! Settle into your chosen location. Take at least 10 minutes to simply notice and absorb the sights, sounds and colors of the place.



NATIONAL MUSEUM of WILDLIFE ART

Identify 5 colors that are very noticeable in the landscape.

They might be colors that “jump out” at you, or colors that seem to appear everywhere you look.

Choose:

- Colors that you like or find interesting
- Colors that you actually see in the land and sky around you (not colors you are imagining)
- At least one warm color (examples of warm colors are below)
- At least one cool color (examples of cool colors are below)
- At least one very light color (perhaps even white, or a color close to white)



Draw five same-sized boxes on your journal page and fill them in with your chosen colors. See the *National Park color palette samples on the reverse side for an example of how this is done.*

Next, sketch the landscape that you see with a regular graphite pencil, and color in your landscape with colored pencils/markers/crayons using only the 5 colors of your color palette.

Now that you’ve finished your color palette and landscape, write down five words that describe the feelings and emotions you have about the landscape, the colors, or both! Write these words somewhere on the same journal page that you’ve sketched your landscape and color palette on.

Next steps:

Consider creating color palettes, landscape sketches, and word clouds inspired by different times of day in the same location. How do the changes in light, weather, and more throughout the day affect your palette and word choices?

Can you wear the colors of nature? Try using one of your natural color palettes to help you choose your outfit today. How does it feel to wear those colors?