

# Color Tricks

**Objective:** Students will experiment with change in color perception that are tricks on the eye and brain.

**Key Concept:** Color perception can be altered by changing conditions around it.

### Supplies Needed:

- Crayola® markers
- drawing paper

### Procedure and Results:

1. The colors you see when you look at an object depend on many things: what light shines on it, what colors are around the object, even what colors you saw right before looking at that object.

2. First, experiment with “Saturated Color.” Take a red or green marker and completely color a square or triangle on white paper. Stare at that colored shape for one full minute. Now look at a plain piece of white paper. What do you see? Your eyes are saturated with red and see the complementary color, green. The cones, photo-receptors in the eye are responsible for color vision, tire resulting in your eye seeing the complementary color.

3. Experiment with “Surround Color.” Draw three one-inch squares and completely color them using the same blue. Around each small square, draw a larger square coloring the first one red, second one yellow and third one green. How does the color blue appear to change depending on what color surrounds it? Experiment with different interior/exterior color combinations.



**FACT:**



After staring at the green squares, look at a piece of white paper. You will see red squares!