

How to Use This Book

Welcome to *Cross-Curricular Building Blocks*, a series of books full of educationally-based activities that can be used in a wide variety of teaching situations.

A unique selection of articles and non-fiction stories appropriate for specific grade levels have been compiled here that can serve as a starting point for cross-curricular studies. Through writing, researching web sites, and answering geographic and math questions, it's possible to use the articles as either a quick break during the day or as complete, comprehensive units. They can also easily be added to existing classroom studies because of the wealth of subjects covered and the fact that each of them supports multiple National Education Standards.

At the end of each article is a *Branching Out* section, which is written specifically for the teacher. This section contains ideas and suggestions for additional class discussion based on the original article content. Also provided are many opportunities for you to challenge those students who finish quickly or for the class who wishes to explore the subject in more depth.

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Most articles in the *Cross-Curricular Building Blocks* series address the following National Standards:

- Language Arts: NL-ENG.K-12.1
- Mathematics: NM-PROB.PK-12.2, NM-PROB.CONN.PK-12.3
- Technology: NT.K-12.3, NT.K-12.5



Additional Standards addressed are listed under each article title:

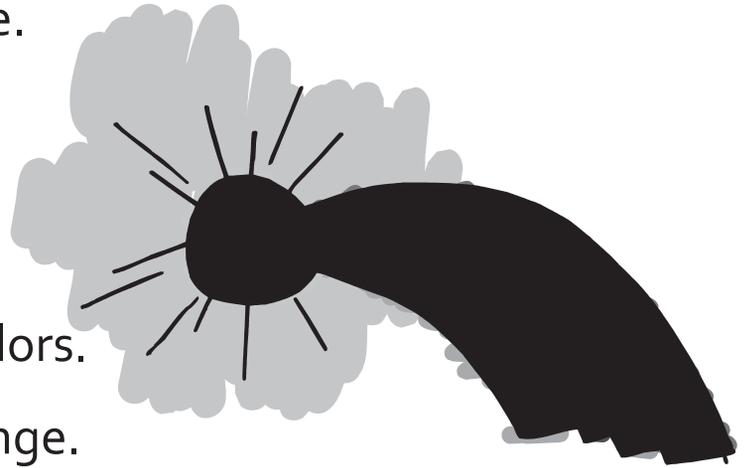
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All the Colors of the Rainbow

Colors can be seen everywhere you look. The sky can be a bright blue on a spring day or a deep red as the sun goes down. The leaves on the trees can be green, yellow, or even orange. Our world is a very colorful place.

Red, yellow, and blue are called primary colors. They are used to make all other colors. You can make any color of the rainbow with just these three primary colors.



Mix red and yellow to make orange. Combine yellow and blue to make green. Red and blue together will make purple. Now you can mix these together to make a whole new set of colors!

There are many different shades of colors. Some fish in the ocean are bright shades of blue, yellow, and orange. Flowers can range from bright pink to dark blue. Some colors can be very dull. On a stormy day, the sky can be dark and gray. Dirt and mud are all shades of brown. These colors aren't noticed very often.

Some colors are used to help you. The bright, red stop sign lets you know that you need to stop. If you see a big, yellow school bus you know to watch for other children. Orange cones and signs on the road tell you to drive slowly.

A blue sign with a white letter 'H' says you are close to a hospital.

Colors can be found by themselves or next to other colors. They can be bright or dull. They may change depending on the time of day or season. No matter where you go, colors will be all around you.

For the Teacher:

For a math activity, bring in any kind of colored candy or cereal. Divide it among the students. Have them count how many of each color they have. Who has the most of any one color? Try solving math problems using these treats.



Give each student two colored crayons or markers and have them draw a picture using just those two colors. Share the pictures with the class and have each student explain what they drew and why.

What do students think of when a certain color is mentioned? If you were to mention the color red, would they think of stopping? Would they think of something being hot? Create a chart with the student's ideas for each color.

It's a Color Party!

Someone forgot to add the color to these balloons!
Fill in each balloon with its correct color.

