

# ALL THE COLORS OF THE EARTH

## All the Colors of the Earth

by Sheila Hamanaka (Morrow)

Themes: Diversity, Friendship, Peace

Grade Level: PreK – 2

Running time: 7 minutes

### SUMMARY

ALL THE COLORS OF THE EARTH celebrates the diversity of children everywhere. Through the use of playful, exuberant images of children and families, and rich, simple text, the story helps children of every race, color, and creed.

### BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about how they feel they are alike, and how they are different from their classmates. Ask:

- What would it be like if everyone were exactly the same?
- What is the best thing about differences?
- What is the most special thing about you? About one of your classmates?

Share the book, ALL THE COLORS OF THE EARTH with children. Then ask:

- How are the children in the book the same? How are they different?
- Do you think children are as different on the inside as they are on the outside? Why? Why not?
- In what ways other than skin and hair type are children different? In what ways are they the same?

### AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Emphasize to children the beauty of our physical

and personality differences. Then supply children with paper plates, paste, and magic markers and yarn of assorted colors. Children will use these materials to create portraits of their classmates. Let each child in the group spend some time studying the eye, hair and skin color of a classmate. Then have children shade their paper plates with their classmates' skin color, draw their eyes with the appropriate eye colors, add the appropriate yarn colors to the plates for hair, etc. Later display the diverse paper plate portraits on a classroom wall or bulleting board under the title "Our Beautiful Class!"

Invite children's parents/grandparents/relatives to share their cultural background with the class. Parents might share a song passed down through the generations with children, or share a favorite recipe that is representative of their culture. They might also want to share a specific holiday tradition, a traditional dance, or a story that reveals some of their cultural heritage with children.

Provide colorful strips of paper, colored yarn, ribbons of assorted colors, and other art materials that children can paste onto large sheets of paper to create a collage. Display the colorful collage on a classroom wall. Then talk with children about their artwork. Ask:

- How does it make you feel to look at a collage with so many colors?
- What colors make you feel the happiest?
- How would you feel if the collage were all one color?
- What do you like about mixing colors?

Emphasize to children that, just as mixing colors to make a collage can give us a happy, joyful feeling, we can experience a similar joy when we interact with people of many different colors and cultures.

Take children on an outdoor walk to investigate some of the colors of nature. Encourage children to look up and down and describe the colors of the sky, grass, hills, earth, rocks, leaves, etc. See if children can name other objects that are the same colors as these objects from nature. Later, when you return to the classroom, give children an opportunity to draw some of these objects of nature and describe the colors in poetry form.

Have children participate in a game where the goal is to identify their classmates without looking at them. Begin by having one child hide in the classroom while others in the group have their eyes closed. Children as the child to name his/her favorite foods, friends, activities, etc. in order to help identify him/her. (Children will not be allowed to ask questions about physical characteristics.) When the game is over, help children understand that the important things about one another have little to do with physical characteristics.

Other videos and films about friendship and diversity available from Weston Woods include:

CROW BOY by Taro Yashima

DANNY AND THE DINOSAUR by Syd Hoff

HERE COMES THE CAT! by Vladimir Vagin and Frank Asch

THE ISLAND OF THE SKOG by Steven Kellogg

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There aren't really any colors on Earth, or anywhere else for that matter. Colors exist solely as perceptions; they are created by our visual systems (our eyes and brain) in response to the stimulus of electromagnetic waves over a relatively narrow slice of the EM spectrum. Your eyes can distinguish, under the best of conditions, somewhere in the neighborhood of 2-3 million different colors or shades, and that's it. And I'm afraid I have to disagree with a couple of the other answers. All the other visible colours of the spectrum are present as well, of course. 124 views. Related Questions More Answers Below. Find out what other deviants think - about anything at all. Motion book. Tell a visual story. Create comics and graphic novels that jump off the screen. DA Muro. Paint a picture. Start your review of All the Colors of the Earth. Write a review. Aug 18, 2018 Kimberly rated it really liked it. Using beautiful illustrations and easy-to-read verse, Sheila Hamanaka embraces and celebrates diversity in All the Colors of the Earth (published in 1994!). Written from her perspective as a Japanese-American mother raising children of multiethnic heritage, Hamanaka relates natural differences children see in each other (mainly through skin color and hair) to the natural differences we see in nature. She begins with "Children come in all the colors of the earth," and her lyrical (non-rhyming) verse is mirrored by rich oil paintings depicting the colors we see in nature.