

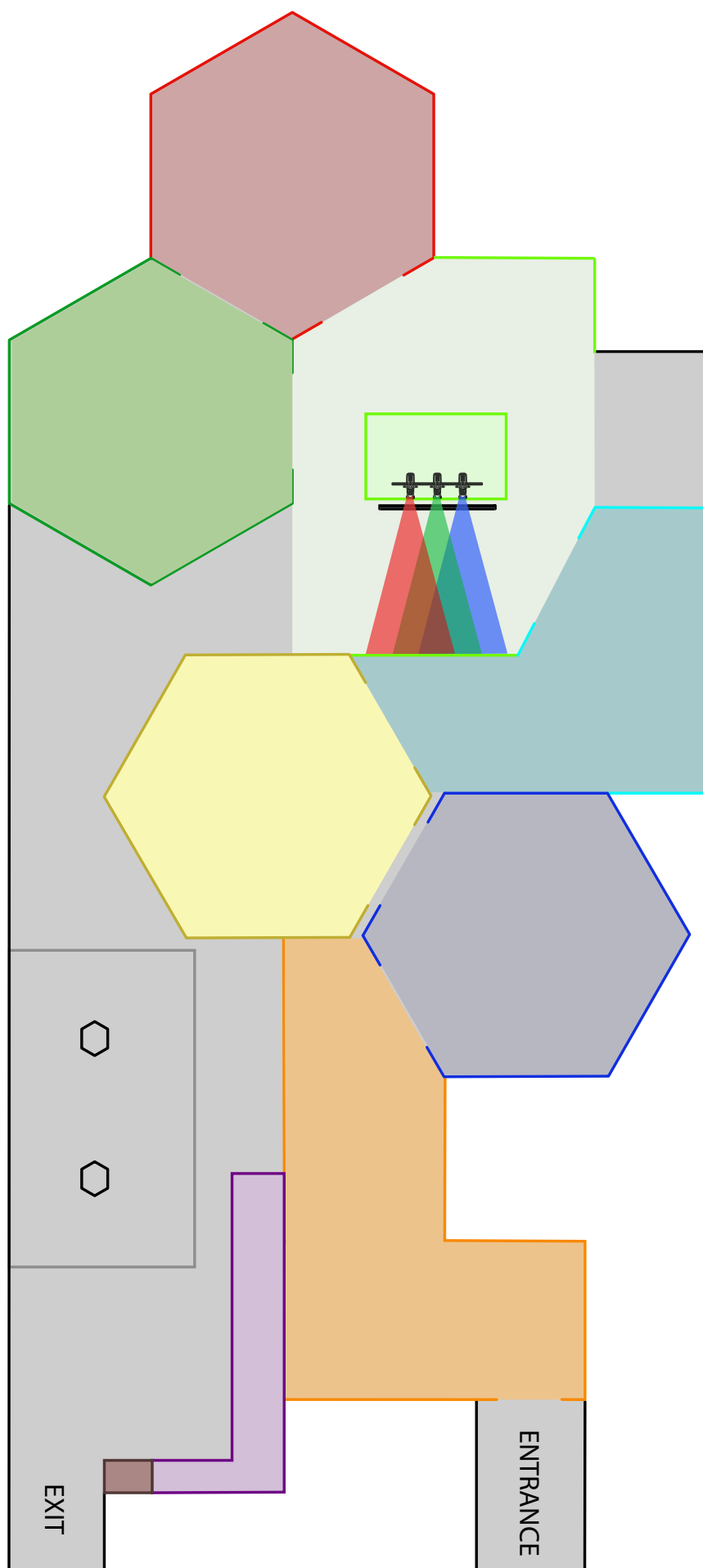


**NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM OF UTAH**

Rio Tinto Center | University of Utah

VISITOR'S GUIDE

The Nature of **COLOR**



WHITE ROOM



Color and Light

Did you know color comes from light? Explore what light is and test your knowledge with this quiz.

1. What colors combine to make up sunlight? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ red
- ☐ orange
- ☐ yellow
- ☐ green
- ☐ blue
- ☐ indigo
- ☐ violet



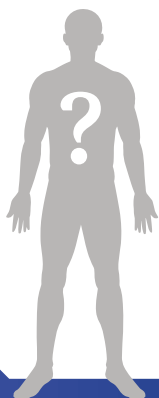
2. The color of objects depends on the light shining on them. A leaf looks green because the green wavelengths of light are:

- ☐ reflected into our eyes
- ☐ absorbed into the object
- ☐ returned to the Sun



3. What parts of our bodies do we use to perceive color?

- ☐ our brains
- ☐ our eyes
- ☐ our toes



GREEN ROOM



Color in Nature

Colorful displays can help plants and animals survive and reproduce. Can you find an example of each adaptation? Write the names of the organisms in the boxes.

Camouflage helps predators and prey escape notice by blending in with the background.

Mimicry helps organisms fool prey or predators by looking like something they're not.

Colorful pigments protect organisms from damaging UV radiation from the Sun.

Warning colors alert predators that prey is poisonous.

Color can help animals attract mates in brilliant courtship displays and can help plants attract pollinators.

Our world is alive with color!

Color plays an important role in nature, culture, and art. It evokes powerful feelings. And it helps us make sense of the world.



Choose a color room to explore.
Each room sheds light on a different theme.

BLUE ROOM

Making Color

Throughout history, people have searched for pigments and dyes to make our lives more colorful.

Matching game! For each pigment or dye, can you figure out the material it's made from AND the object it colors? Draw a line to each.



1. lapis lazuli



2. Indigofera



3. potassium ferricyanide crystals

INDIGO

the most valuable and widely traded dye in the world for centuries, it was made by soaking and fermenting leaves

PRUSSIAN BLUE

the first mass-produced pigment used in everything from fine art to wallpaper, it is made by chemically combining several ingredients that include potassium ferricyanide

ULTRAMARINE

a very costly pigment made by grinding up gemstones, it was reserved for the most sacred objects during the Renaissance



A. oil painting



B. woodblock print



C. traditionally dyed

YELLOW ROOM

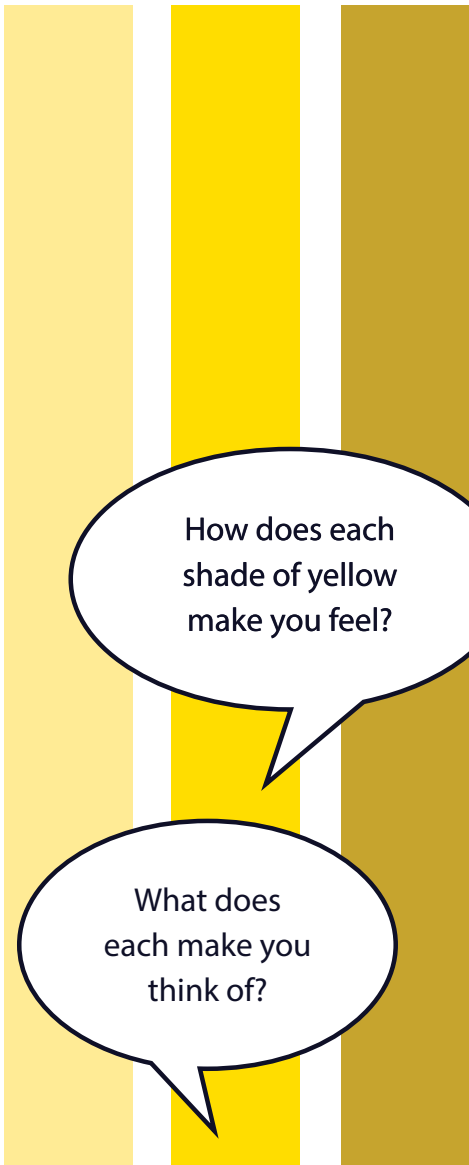


Feeling Color

Colors affect our mood,
how we see the world,
and even how we behave.

Talk about it!

Look at each shade of yellow:



How does each
shade of yellow
make you feel?

What does
each make you
think of?

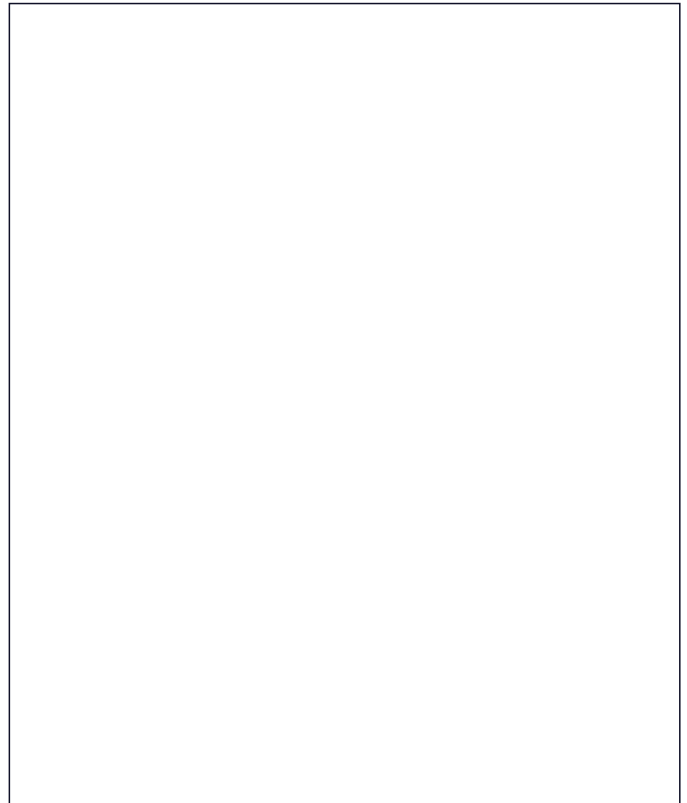
RED ROOM



The Meaning of Color

Colors take on different meanings in different times
and places.

Pick a red object in this room. Draw it:



What do you find interesting about it?

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