

# Here Comes the Sun

a thick pancake. Next, they pull or pinch out rays from the edges and add details as desired with bits of red, yellow, and white clay. As students finish, they place their suns on papers labeled with their names and make drawings around their clay suns. Kindergartners are very proud of their creations and often remember this color-mixing experiment for quite a while.



## First Grade Color Mixing

In first grade, we revisit the idea of warm colors and the sun using different media, but we still focus on color mixing. We review why the sun is important and note similarities and differences among sun images. Students are given red, yellow, and white paint and practice mixing as many different warm colors as they can when painting their own sun images.

The following week when the paintings are dry, students review how they made each color. Oil pastels are used to add details, patterns, and backgrounds. Finished paintings radiate from the bulletin boards and bring warm smiles to students and staff.

The proof of the success of these lessons is that students come back every year remembering this experience and remind me of how we made orange.

*Jennifer Nesson is an art teacher at Plouffe Elementary School in Brockton, Massachusetts. [Jenadalexnesson@comcast.net](mailto:Jenadalexnesson@comcast.net)*

## NATIONAL STANDARD

*Students explore and understand perspective content for works of art.*

## WEB LINK

*[www.nascom.nasa.gov/hotshots/2002\\_08\\_29](http://www.nascom.nasa.gov/hotshots/2002_08_29)*

## Jennifer Nesson

Color mixing is always a magical treat for students in the artroom, especially young students. I never tire of hearing their excited squeals of delight as new colors are made. I like to give my kindergartners and first graders color mixing experiences they will remember and build upon.

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## Kindergarten Color Mixing

In kindergarten we study sun images created from many different media, including clay, fabric, beads, metal, and paper. Students notice that not all

the sun images are the same, and that they differ in regard to media, pattern, and design. They reflect on why the sun is so important to everything on earth and recognize that the colors of the sun—red, yellow, and orange—are warm colors.

At this point I explain to students that they will be mixing red and yellow clay together to make their own suns. I demonstrate pushing and pulling the two colors of clay to create orange before they mix their own. They roll the now-orange clay into a small ball and gently flatten it like