

Three views of colour.

Philosophy Smash with Henry!

Activity Sheet.

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This activity should be used with the ‘What is colour?’ video, available at the website above.

Break off into small groups. Read the three views in the box below. Which one do you think is right? As a group, decide what you think, and give reasons for your opinions.

We know that other animals (like dogs or bees) see colour differently. So what is colour?

Three views of colour:

- 1) Objects have colours. The grass is green, the fire engine is red, and the sky is blue.

The fire engine might look red to me, but it looks very different to a dog or a bee. Different species of animals see colours differently, but they're wrong. Only the human way of seeing colour is correct.

- 2) Objects have a lot more colours than we realise.

The fire engine might look red to me, but it looks very different to a dog or a bee. It has all of those colours, all at once.

- 3) Objects don't have colours at all. Colours are made up by our brains.

The fire engine might look red to me, but it looks very different to a dog or a bee. This is because objects reflect light in different ways, that light enters our eyes, and our brains ‘make up’ the colours of things. The fire engine isn't really red, and grass isn't really green, and the sky isn't really blue. It's just our brains making up these colours to help us understand the world.



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