



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2026 Volume VI: Asking Questions in Biology

You Will Find the Infinite

Guide for Curriculum Unit 26.06.05, published September 2026
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The focus of this visual arts unit written for first grade instruction is the biology of the human eye and how humans evolved to perceive color. Rainbows which we can see with the naked eye are a unifying theme throughout this unit. Students will see rainbows created by prisms replicating the optical experiments of the scientist Isaac Newton and then develop hypotheses before experimenting with color mixing. Students will learn about what color is, the basics of how the human eye evolved to see color and how color can be manipulated with a variety of materials through the use of art techniques in drawing, painting and collage. Students will learn to ask questions about illusions created by color and how color impacts how they perceive and what they see in art. Students will analyze and reflect on artworks in the Yale Art Gallery by the artists Josef Albers, Sol LeWitt and Kurt Schwitters and develop artworks using color theory.

(Developed for Visual Arts, grade 1; recommended for Visual Arts, grade 1, and Biology, grades K-8)

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