



# Colour Splash Art in the Classroom Exploring Colour

KS2: Digital

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*CCEA Digital Art & Design*

*KS2: Exploring Colour, Activity 1: Colour Splash (page 67-68)*

We are learning to:

- take photos with more control;
- understand what shallow focus is in photography;
- use the rule of thirds, focus and colour to create a focal point;
- selectively apply filters in photo editing software; and
- make decisions and be creative (TS&PC).

*Shared Vocabulary*

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- *focus*
  - *focal point*
  - *shallow focus*
  - *close-up*
  - *photo effect*
  - *photo filter*
  - *colour splash*
  - *colourise*
  - *desaturate*
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**PLAN AND EXPLORE** Turn on the rule of thirds grid on a digital camera or iPad camera (you can find this in the camera settings) and show it to your pupils. Explain that photographers, artists and designers use this to help them to compose their work. Encourage them to use the horizontal and vertical lines to divide the image in a pleasing way. They should also place objects where the lines intersect to create points of interest (or focal points) that naturally draw the eye. Explain to the children that they are going to try using focal points in their own photography and then editing them to create a colour splash effect. A colour splash (also known as selective colourisation) is a photo effect where an area of the photo is coloured to create a focal point and the rest of the image is desaturated (limited in colour or colour removed). Now demonstrate creating shallow focus. (This is when there is only one plane of focus in the photo.) This helps photographers to emphasise a part of a photo and make us focus on it.

*TIP!* To do this on an iPad, hold the camera steady close to an object and tap the screen on the area you want to focus on. This will force the camera to focus on the area you have chosen, making the other areas of the image go out of focus. Now explain that we can use colour to create a focal point. Show the class some examples of this in photography and discuss these with them.

*TIP!* Search for 'colour focal point photography' or 'colour splash photography' to find examples online.

**DO** Ask your pupils to choose an object or subject to use for their photo composition. Ask them to make sure the rule of thirds grid is turned on in their camera. Encourage your pupils to think about where and how they want to photograph their object and what they want to keep in focus. Ask them to consider what will be in the background of their image, choosing something that is a completely

different colour from their object to help it stand out. Encourage them to choose somewhere with good (and if possible natural) light. Remind them how to create a shallow focus effect. Then, ask them to take their photos and review them. If they are not happy, they can retake the photo until they have a sharp photograph composed in the way they want. Once the children are happy with their photos, ask them to import these into an app, such as Photoshop Mix, which allows you to select an area of the photo and desaturate it.

*TIP!* In Photoshop Mix, Looks allows you to select areas with the smart brush to desaturate using the Portrait filter. It is easier to select the area you want to keep coloured and then use the Invert option to make the rest of the image black and white. You can use the basic brush to tidy the edges. Once your pupils are happy with their photos, remind them to save and export to the camera roll.

**REVIEW** Ask your pupils to think about the task. What did they enjoy? Did they find anything difficult? What do they like about their photo? Would they do anything differently next time? They should have the opportunity to look at each other's work. Encourage them to give positive feedback along with some ideas for improvements.

### **Made using Photoshop Mix app**

#### *Focal point photography*

*Samples of work courtesy of Elmgrove Primary School, Belfast and St. Mary's Primary School, Newcastle*









