

# Darwin's Fantastical Voyage

## Activity 5: Make a colour chart

[www.darwinproject.ac.uk/learning/7-11/darwins-fantastical-voyage](http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/learning/7-11/darwins-fantastical-voyage)

### Suggested preparation

Presentation: Darwin's Fantastical Voyage

Ask the expert film: Darwin and the Beagle Voyage

Alison Pearn, Associate Director of the Darwin Correspondence Project, describes Darwin's amazing voyage

### How long will activity take?

- 30 minutes

### What do I need?

- Example pages from *Werner's Nomenclature of Colours* by Patrick Syme
- *My Colour Chart* template
- Coloured pens, pencils or stickers

Darwin took a copy of Syme's *Werner's Nomenclature of Colours* on the Beagle voyage. The book helps to identify colours by using examples found in nature. Darwin used it to record the colours of specimens when he found them.

The chart was helpful because many of Darwin's specimens became bleached out on the journey home as they were preserved in alcohol and the pressed plants changed colour over time too.

Darwin's colleague, Reverend Leonard Jenyns, noted that the fish specimens he sent had become 'much altered by the action of the spirits', so he was glad to have the colour chart to refer to.

### What do I do?

1. Study the examples from the original chart.
2. Using the blank chart template, fill in the colour, give it a name, describe it, and then give examples that you have seen in nature. Complete with as many different colours as you can.
3. Compare your colour charts with your class.



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Examples of colour charts from  
*Werner's Nomenclature of Colours*  
 By Patrick Syme

(Images courtesy of Cambridge University Library)

**BLUES**

No.	Names	Colours	ANIMAL	VEGETABLE	MINERAL
24	Scotch Blue		Throat of Blue Titmouse.	Stamina of Single Purple Anemone.	Blue Copper Ore.
25	Prussian Blue		Beauty Spot on Wing of Mallard Drake.	Stamina of Bluish Purple Anemone.	Blue Copper Ore.
26	Indigo Blue				Blue Copper Ore.
27	China Blue		Rhynchites Nitens	Back Parts of Gentian Flower.	Blue Copper Ore from Chessy.
28	Azure Blue		Breast of Emerald-crested Manakin.	Grape Hyacinth, Gentian.	Blue Copper Ore.
29	Ultramarine Blue		Upper Side of the Wings of small blue Heath Butterfly.	Borage.	Azure Stone or Lapis Lazuli.
30	Flax-flower Blue		Light Parts of the Margin of the Wings of Devil's Butterfly.	Flax flower.	Blue Copper Ore.

**YELLOWS.**

No.	Names	Colours	ANIMAL	VEGETABLE	MINE
62	Sulphur Yellow		Yellow Parts of large Dragon Fly.	Various Coloured Snap dragon.	Sulphur
63	Primrose Yellow		Pale Canary Bird.	Wild Primrose	
64	Wax Yellow		Larva of large Water Beetle.	Greenish Parts of Nonpareil Apple.	
65	Lemon Yellow		Large Wasp or Hornet.	Shrubby Goldlocks	
66	Gamboge Yellow		Wings of Goldfinch, Canary Bird.	Yellow Jas	
67	Kings Yellow		Head of Golden Pheasant.	Yellow Cinque	
68	Saffron Yellow		Tail Coveris of Golden Pheasant.	Anti Saff	

**GREENS.**

N <sup>o</sup>	Names	Colours	ANIMAL	VEGETABLE	MINERAL
46	Celandine Green		Phalena Margaritaria.	Back of Tussock Leaves.	Beryl.
47	Mountain Green		Phalena Viridaria.	Thick leaved Cutweed, Silver-leaved Almond.	Actynolite Beryl.
48	Leek Green			Sea Kale, Leaves of Leeks in Water.	Actynolite Prase.
49	Blackish Green		Elytra of Meloe Violaceus.	Dark Streaks on Leaves of Cayenne Pepper.	Serpentine.
50	Verdigris Green		Tail of small Long-tailed Green Parrot.		Copper Green.
51	Bluish Green		Egg of Thrush.	Under Disk of Wild Rose leaves.	Beryl.
52	Apple Green		Under Side of Wings of Green Broom Moth.		Crysoptase.
53	Emerald Green		Beauty Spot on Wing of Teal Drake.		Emerald.




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My colour chart

By .....

No.	Name	Colour	Description	Example in nature
1.	Letter box red (example)		Deep red (example)	Ladybird (example)

