



SHADES OF PEOPLE

BY SHELLEY ROTNER AND
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PHOTOGRAPHS BY
SHELLEY ROTNER

About the Book

Cocoa, tan, rose, and almond—people come in lots of shades.

GRADES
PREK–K

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SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Language Arts

Vocabulary—Students can learn and use other words for *color*: *shade*, *hue*, *tint*, and *tone*. They can also use a print or online thesaurus to look up simple color words (*red*, *yellow*, *blue*, *green*) and to find synonyms. They can use all of these newly learned words in sentences.

Creative Writing—The premise of *Shades of People* is that although we come in different “packages,” we are all in the world together, and the photos show a multitude of children having fun and getting along. Students can write about friendship: what qualities they seek in friends beyond physical appearance.

Multicultural Studies—A few links are presented below in Online Resources that provide access to many additional classroom activities with a multicultural theme.

Online Resources

school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/programs/stereotypes/index.html

Presents a detailed lesson plan for teaching students about stereotypes and diversity.

www.multiculturalchildrenslit.com/

Presents links to annotated bibliographies of children's multicultural books appropriate for the elementary grades (kindergarten through grade six).

www.pbs.org/kcts/preciouschildren/diversity/index.html

Suggestions on promoting racial and cultural awareness at school and at home.

images.google.com

Students can type in *flowers*, *fruit*, *vegetables*, or *animals* to access a variety of pictures. Perhaps they will think of additional categories.

Classroom activities prepared by Sandy Schuckett, school library consultant.

Art

Observation—Students can choose a category such as flowers, fruits, vegetables, or animals and list the many colors or shades that describe them. They can create illustrations showing the various colors. With the help of adults, they can use encyclopedias, nonfiction books, or Google Images to get ideas. Their creations can be arranged on a classroom bulletin board.

Mixing colors—Using tempera paints, students can experiment with mixing flesh tones. They can begin with red, brown, yellow, and white; and by mixing small amounts of these colors together they can try to duplicate their own flesh tones. Once they have created their color, they can use the paints to make handprints, which they can cut out after the prints dry. They can work in groups of six or eight to create handprint collages similar to the last photo in the book. Each handprint can be labeled with the child's name.