

COLOURFUL TALES

NGV

Colour is all around us. But what is colour and how are colours made? Find the coloured cases in *Spectrum: An Exploration of Colour* on Level 2 at NGV International and discover some of the secrets of colour.

RED

One way to make red pigment is to grind up a mineral called cinnabar. Can you guess which object in this case uses cinnabar?



HINT: It's something you might pour a drink with.

ORANGE

Which came first?

The fruit or the colour?

Before the 1500s, the clothes in this case would have been described as yellow red. Then the fruit made its way from China to Europe and the word 'orange' appeared in the English language.



YELLOW

This colour has some interesting histories. These yellow parrots are a Chinese symbol of love. **But have you heard of Indian Yellow?**

It was made from the urine of cows fed on mango leaves! There's a synthetic version in one of the end cabinets.



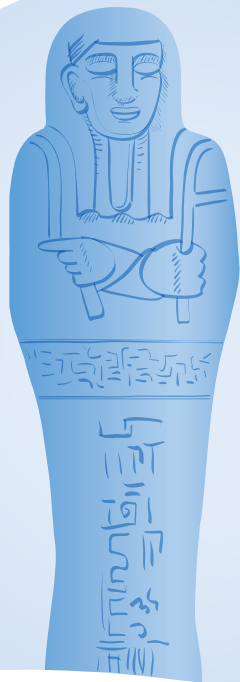
HINT: It's near the grey case!

GREEN

Some coloured stones are used to make objects, jewellery and works of art. Jade is best known for being green but can also be red, purple or even black! Can you spot some jade objects?



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BLUE

Faience is a blue material used to create objects like the two Egyptian shabti figures in this case. The shining blue symbolised life, fertility and the River Nile. **What does the colour blue remind you of?**

INDIGO

Can you guess the colour of the plant used to make indigo dye? It's green! The leaves of *Indigofera tinctoria* can be used to make indigo. **What other plants can you use to dye clothes?**



Cabbage can be used to dye clothes too!

PURPLE

In 1856 William Perkin was experimenting to create a treatment for malaria and accidentally created a bright purple liquid that could be used to dye fabric. He named the new colour mauveine. **Can you spot the mauveine shoes?**



GREY

Grey is the colour of stormy skies, pigeons and metal. Steel is a metal made from iron and carbon. It is used to create jewellery, utensils and buildings. **Did you know that iron is found in meteorites?** Imagine having a kettle or bracelet that came from outer space!

