

Rosa's Rainbow Palette: A French Color Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify and use French vocabulary for colors to describe objects, and to understand how these adjectives agree with the gender of nouns.

Join Rosa the parrot on a linguistic adventure! Use this fact-file to categorize colors in French. Remember that in French, adjectives often change depending on whether the object is masculine or feminine. Complete the sections below to build your own colorful reference guide.

Word bank: rouge · bleu · vert · jaune · orange · violet · rose · noir · blanc · masculin · féminin · adjectif

1. The Primary Colors: List three French colors that you consider 'primary'. Write the French word and the English translation. Explain why you have chosen these three. (3 marks)

2. Gender Agreement: Choose one color from the word bank that changes when describing a feminine noun (e.g., adding an 'e'). Write a sentence in French using this color to describe a noun of your choice. (3 marks)

3. Creative Descriptions: Imagine you are describing an object using two different colors in French. Write the phrase and justify why the adjective order in French might differ from English. (4 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare the French word for 'orange' or 'rose' with English. Why do you think these words are similar in both languages? Research the etymology if you can. (4 marks)

5. Critical Thinking: What might happen to the meaning of a sentence if you accidentally use the masculine form of a color adjective for a feminine noun? Justify the importance of accuracy. (4 marks)

6. Synthesis: If you were to create a new color in French, what would you name it? Describe its appearance using French adjectives and explain the reasoning behind your creative choice. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'French Color Wheel' poster. Instead of just writing the names, draw objects that are naturally those colors (e.g., a green apple, a yellow sun) and label them with the correct French noun and color adjective, ensuring the gender agreement is correct for each.