

# Colour mixing with a spinning top

This is a simple STEAM-based project to do at home.

**You will need:** thin card (from cereal box or similar), pencil, scissors, ruler, compass (optional), paint in primary colours (red, blue, yellow), paintbrush, cocktail stick, Blu Tac.

## Instructions:

1. On the thin card, draw a circle (not more than 8cm in diameter) – you can use a compass or draw around a large reel of sticky tape (or similar). Cut out.
2. Divide the circle into quarters.
3. Choose two primary colours (red, blue or yellow) and paint each quarter in alternate colours. Leave to dry.
4. With Blu Tac under the centre of the circle, push through with a pencil to make a small hole for a cocktail stick. Insert a cocktail stick.
5. You now have a spinning top! When you spin the top, the colours should mix together to form another colour. For example, red and yellow combined will create orange. Try some other primary colour combinations!

**Fun facts:** The spinning top is one of the oldest toys in human history, and its exact origins are unknown. Some of the earliest surviving examples are made from clay. The Museum has a wooden spinning top in its handling collection; this dates from the Victorian period.

