My first color gradients

Printable practice worksheet · colored pencils, markers or paint

The 3 rules of a smooth gradient

1. **Neighboring colors** Pick colors that sit side by side on the color wheel. Opposite colors turn muddy brown or gray in the middle.
2. **Light to dark** Start with the lightest color (with watercolor, the opposite: lighten with water) and keep a wide area where both colors overlap.
3. **Build up the pressure** Light at first, firmer toward the end. With paint: a little more pigment and a little less water.

Tip: Two colors won't blend? Add an in-between color: yellow → orange → red.

The color wheel

Neighbors: they blend

Opposites: a muddy middle

1 Blend two colors

about 10 min

Pick two neighboring colors (yellow and orange, or light blue and dark blue). Color the first strip following the guides, then do it again in the second one, without guides.

color 1	both layered	color 2

Your turn, no guides

2 Light to dark with one pencil

about 10 min

Keep the same color. Fill each box pressing a little harder every time, then do the same in one go across the long strip.

1	2	3	4	5	6

very light → firm

3 Three neighboring colors

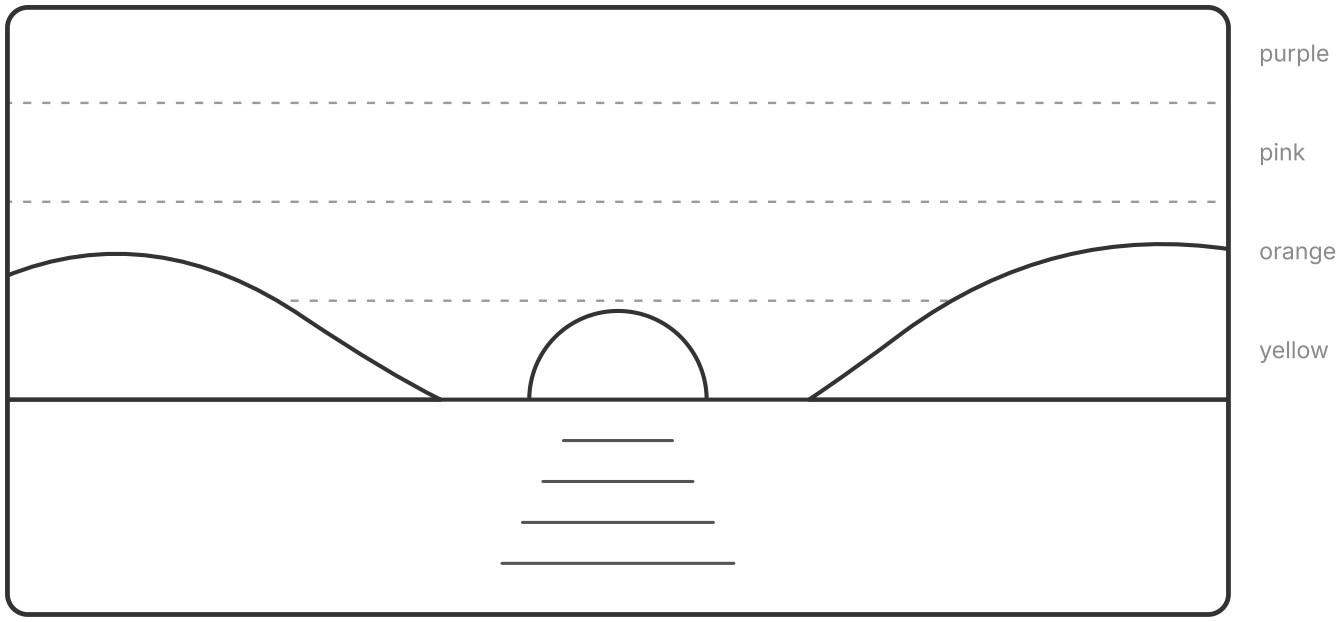
about 15 min

Yellow, orange and red (or light green, green and blue). Lay each color in its area, then blend the edges in the hatched areas by layering the two neighboring colors.

4 A sunset sky

about 20 min

Color the sky in bands, from the top down to the horizon, blending each band into the next. Keep the sun light, then darken the hills and the reflection in the water.



Test strips

Try your colors before you start: side by side, then layered.

Check your work

- [ ] I can’t see a sharp line between two colors anymore.
- [ ] The middle of the gradient stays bright, not muddy.
- [ ] I worked from light to dark.

Keep going

Find the in-between shades of your colors with the free “Create my gradient” tool:
kolorii.com/en/blog/color-gradient

Free printable landscapes to practice on:
kolorii.com/en/landscape-coloring-pages