Sporan 2023/24: Dathan Nàdair | Colours in Nature

dearg	buidhe	gorm	liath	geal
ruadh	bàn	uaine	glas	dubh

Dathan Ceilteach | Celtic Colours

The way we see colours in Gaelic is really interesting! Early Celtic people had a different colour spectrum to English speakers nowadays, so colours in Gaelic don't always translate well into English. For example, we might think to use **uaine** to describe a bright, vibrant green. But the grass isn't **uaine** in Gaelic – it's actually **gorm**! Although we usually translate **gorm** as 'blue', it is actually more of a blue-green and is often used to describe leaves, grass and vegetation.

We also tend to use words like **bàn, ruadh** and **liath** instead of **buidhe, dearg** and **glas** to describe things in nature – your hair included!

Gnìomh | Activity

Try and figure out the names of the hills below, then write the colour in the dots. In Gaelic, we have masculine (m) and feminine (f) words. When the word before the colour is feminine (f), an **h** is added after the first letter of the colour, *unless* it begins with a *vowel* or *l, n* or *r*. This is called lenition.

For example, **beinn** (f) + **dubh** = beinn d**h**ubh, but **càrn** (m) + **dubh** = càrn dubh.

Sgùrr (m) ○○○○○

Beinn (f) ○○○○○○○

Càrn (m) ○○○○

Beinn (f) ○○○○○

Sgòrr (m) ○○○○○

Beinn (f) ○○○○○ mhòr

Ciste (f) ○○○○○

Beinn (f) ○○○○○

Sgùrr (m) ○○○

○○○○-chàrn (m)

Sgùrr (m) ○○○○ mòr

Sgòrr (m) an Lochan ○○○○○