Name: ______________________

Creating Finger-Paint from Rocks

Background
Do you know how rocks are useful in our lives right now? Look around and you will find different objects that are made out of rocks. Did you know that the lead of your pencil is made of a rock called graphite? Did you know that the chalk we use to draw on the sidewalks is made out of a rock called calcium? The windowpanes in your school, they are made out of small pieces of rocks called sand. What about all the colors used around your classroom? They come from different colored minerals.

A long time ago, cavemen used rocks to make tools and paintings in caves. Cavemen used basic ochre and yellow colors to make their cave paintings using the same technique that you will use.

Objective
Today we will explore how to make cavemen paint with rocks or chalk. You will crush small colored rocks or chalk to make powder and mix it with water to make paint. You will explore mixing the primary colors red, yellow and blue to obtain new colors called secondary colors.

Safety
- Always wear safety goggles.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before leaving the lab.
- Clean up your materials and dispose any garbage.
- You will be crushing and grinding small rocks or chalk, make sure not to put your fingers under the hammer.
- Don’t smell the dust coming from the Ziploc bags.

Procedure
1. Fold a small piece of paper into an envelope shape, and place the small rocks or chalk pieces to be crushed inside of it. This paper will help to contain all the small pieces inside.
2. Put the envelope containing the rocks or chalk inside of a plastic ziplock bag and start crushing it mix the hammer/weights or hands to obtain a powder. If you have mortars and muddlers, pour the dust in the mortar and grind it with the muddler to create a fine dust.
3. Pour the colored dust in the tray or foam plate and pour about 2 to 3 ml of water using the pipettes/measuring spoons in each compartment to make a soft paste.
4. Have fun mixing and painting with paintbrushes or fingers.
Observations
Mix the primary colors red, yellow and blue and describe to your partner what new colors are made. Color the spaces provided below with your paint.
**Analysis**

Use the sorting mats to classify the rocks according to their physical properties.

**Conclusion**

Describe to your partner what new secondary colors were made by mixing the primary colors. Now that you know how to make even more colors, show your talents by drawing an original picture.