

WHY ARE SCHOOL BUSES YELLOW?

“Why are school buses yellow?” is one of the most popular questions. But first, let’s ask, *“Are school buses really yellow?”*

What color is yellow?

- Is yellow the color of a lemon?
- Is yellow the color of a banana?
- Is yellow the color of an orange?
- Is yellow the color of a mango?



If you live in the United States, the color of most school buses is not a pure yellow (*like the color of lemons*). It’s not the same color as an orange either.

The color of a school bus is yellow-orange. This color is a mixture of lemon yellow and orange ... like the color of the fruit of a mango.

So why do we still refer to a school bus as yellow? Back in the 1930’s in the U.S., school buses were pure yellow. Thus, the term **“school bus yellow”** came into the English language.

WHY ARE SCHOOL BUSES YELLOW-ORANGE (OR YELLOW) TODAY?

Some facts about yellow:

Yellow (*and the yellow family of colors*) gets your attention faster than any other color. People notice yellow objects first.

Even when you are looking straight ahead, you can see a yellow object that is not in front of you “in the corners of your eyes” much sooner than any other color even red.

Scientists describe this as follows: **“Lateral peripheral vision for detecting yellows is 1.24 times greater than for red.”**

Many experts also point out that colors such as yellow or greenish-yellow are more visible to the human eye under dimmer conditions compared to red.

Some facts about yellow cars, trucks and other moving vehicles:

Yellow in traffic

If there’s fog or any kind of bad weather, drivers will still be able to see yellow cars and any moving vehicle fairly well.

Not only are school buses yellow, but also many earth-moving, road-building and other outdoor machines are yellow because you could get hurt if you accidentally run into one of them.

Many accidents occur in farms and outdoors because the victim saw the moving object too late. If it’s yellow, you have a strong warning!

A fact about yellow school buses in the United States

One reason why school buses are yellow is because safety rules and regulations in some areas in the United States require that school buses be yellow.

FUN FACTS

Color Vision

Humans, apes, most old world monkeys, ground squirrels, and many species of fish, birds, and insects have well-developed color vision. However, it's worth noting that 7 or 8 percent of human males are relatively or completely deficient in color vision.

Humans with the most common form of color-blindness and mammals with poor color vision are unable to differentiate between reds and greens. They see the world as a blend of blues, yellows, and greys.

Mammals with limited color vision or none at all include mice, rats, rabbits, cats, and dogs.

Nocturnal animals—such as foxes, owls, skunks, and raccoons—whose vision is specialized for dim light seldom have good color vision. By comparison, humans are color-blind in dim light.

Is there a correlation between car color and accidents?

Color is not used to calculate auto insurance rates. Information that is used includes the vehicle's year, make, model, body type and engine size, as well as information about the driver.

For instance, you'll see high rates if you own a new blue 400-horsepower Chevrolet Corvette V-8 and have a poor driving record—but lower rates if you have a red Toyota Camry four-cylinder sedan and a good record.

The Color of Your Nails = The Quality of Your Health

Normally, nail beds are peachy-pink because of a healthy supply of blood into the finger tips and toes. When a diet deficiency or disease is present, sometimes the nail beds become discolored or malformed.

When nails are discolored (a color other than peachy-pink), this may be indicative of a diet deficiency or diabetes, allergies, or other diseases. Bluish colored nails generally indicate a lack of oxygen in the blood. This discoloration may be caused by lung disease, such as emphysema, or asthma.

Nails with a greenish color may indicate an infection in the nail bed or somewhere else within body.

Bananas get sunburned

If a banana's skin shows dark brown or black spots, these are most likely sunburn spots and not necessarily a sign of over ripeness or rotting. If bananas suffer very long exposure to ultraviolet radiation during their growing period, they develop a tan in their own unique splotchy way.

How “eggplant” got its name

The eggplant, also known as the aubergine in Europe, was named by the English because early specimens were all white and looked like hen's eggs.

Eggplant is related to the tomato and potato. Though commonly thought of as a vegetable, it is actually a fruit ... specifically, a berry. There are many sizes and shapes, ranging in color from white to rich purple.

Note: *The term “aubergine” is frequently used to refer to the color purple.*

HOW ANIMALS SEE COLOR

Different animals have different kinds of color vision. Some have very poor color vision and others have very good color vision. In fact some birds and bees have super color vision and see colors that humans don't see.

Color Vision & Animals

Scientists say that good color vision helps animals find food on the land or in the water. For land animals, good color vision helps to tell the difference between ripe red fruit and unripe green fruit.

Colors can also make animals more attractive to each other when they mate.

Finally, the ability to see colors helps animals identify predators (*other animals who may attack them*).

Poor color vision & animals

Dogs, cats, mice, rats and rabbits have very poor color vision. In fact, they see mostly greys and some blues and yellows.

What about bulls?

- Does a red cape make them angry?
- Does a red cape make them want to attack it?
- Bulls are color-blind. They charge the red cape because it is moving, not because it is red.



Good color vision & animals

Some animals do have good color vision. Monkeys, ground squirrels, birds, insects, and many fish can see a fairly good range of color. In some cases it's not as good as what we humans see—but it's much better than cats and dogs.

Who has super color vision?

Bees and butterflies can see colors that we can't see. Their range of color vision extends into the ultraviolet. The leaves of the flowers they pollinate have special ultraviolet patterns which guide the insects deep into the flower.

Another example is how a diving bird can see under water without goggles ... and you can't.

Which animal doesn't need eyes to see?

A pit viper sees by feeling the heat in an object.

Think about the last time you were really sick. Did you check your forehead to see if you were running a temperature? That "fever-heat" is what gives a pit viper a different kind of vision. This is called "thermal vision."



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