Colorful Crayons: Inside a Crayon Factory

If you are like most kids, you've probably drawn a picture with crayons. Have you ever wondered how crayons are made?

1. **Mix**
   
   Crayon wax is melted in pots at the factory. Colored powder called *pigment* is mixed into the wax.

2. **Mold**
   
   Colorful hot liquid wax is poured into crayon-shaped holes called *molds*. The liquid wax fills up the molds.

3. **Cool**
   
   The crayon wax is left to cool. Then it is pushed out of the molds. Hard crayons come out!

4. **Check**
   
   Workers check the hard crayons. Crayons that are not perfect are put aside to be melted in another batch.

5. **Label**
   
   Perfect crayons are taken to a machine. It puts a label on each crayon. Finished crayons are sorted by color.

6. **Box**
   
   The labeled crayons are placed into boxes, and the tops are closed. The colorful crayons are ready!
Think About It

What might happen next to a finished box of crayons?

**Colorful Crayon Facts**

- It takes about three to five minutes to make a crayon.
- Most 2- to 8-year-olds color for about a half hour every day.
- Experts say that the smell of a crayon is one of the easiest scents to recognize.
- The nickname for worn-down crayons is "leftolas."
- Most children in the United States will wear down 730 crayons by the time they are 10 years old!