The Color Wheel

An Introduction to the Color Wheel and Color Theory

Weblinks

Resource List

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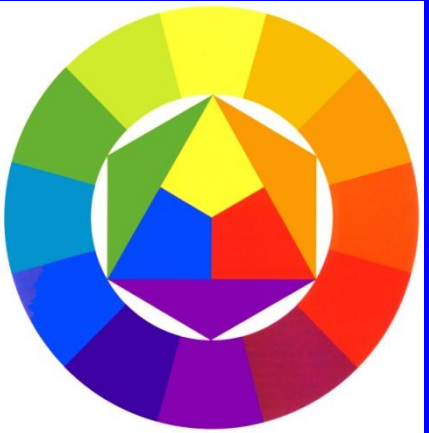
The Color Wheel

- The color wheel shows relationships between the colors.
- Artists often use the color wheel to help understand how colors relate to one another.

NEXT

COLOR MIXING

- It's easy to mix paints to make new colors. You can use the primary colors (red, blue, and yellow) plus black and white to get all of the colors of the rainbow!



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COLOR MIXING

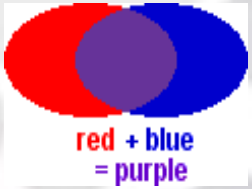
Primary + Secondary

When you mix the Primary Colors together, you get the Secondary Colors.

What colors do these make?

Red + Yellow = Orange

Red + Blue = Purple



Blue + Yellow = Green

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Click the Mouse Anywhere to Reveal the Answers

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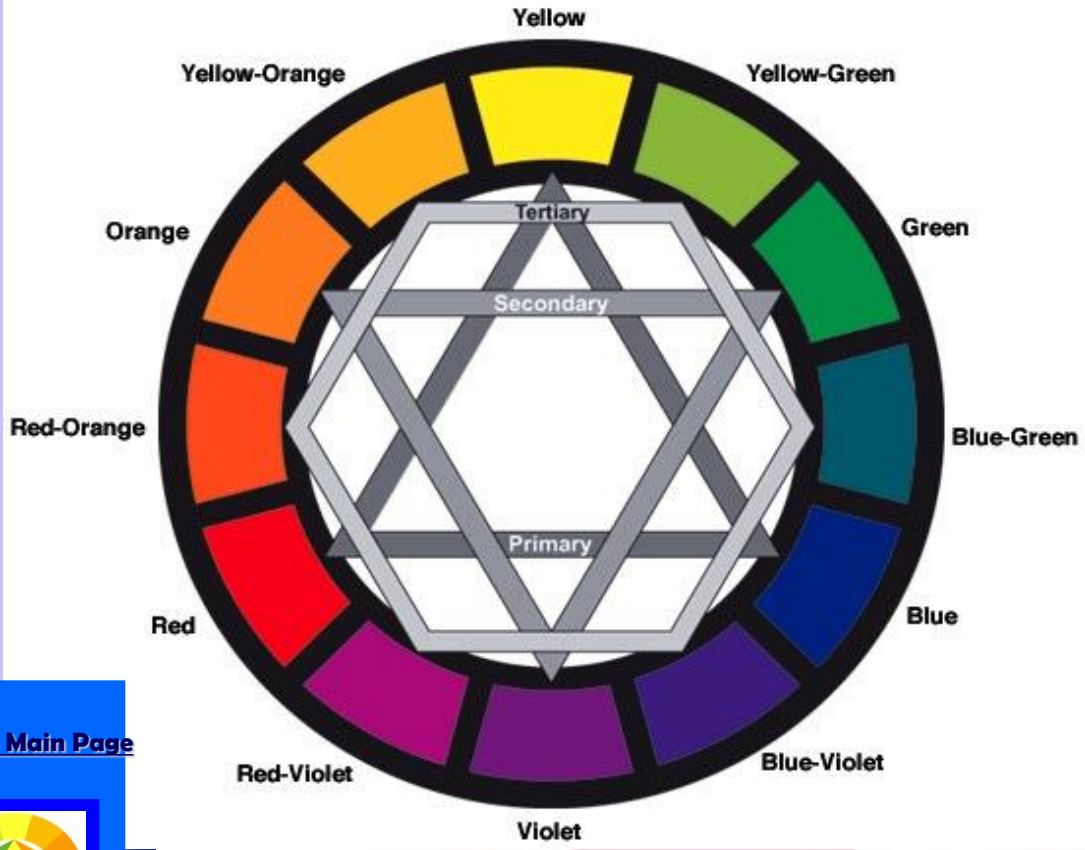
The Color Wheel



Primary Colors

Secondary Colors

Intermediate/ Tertiary Colors

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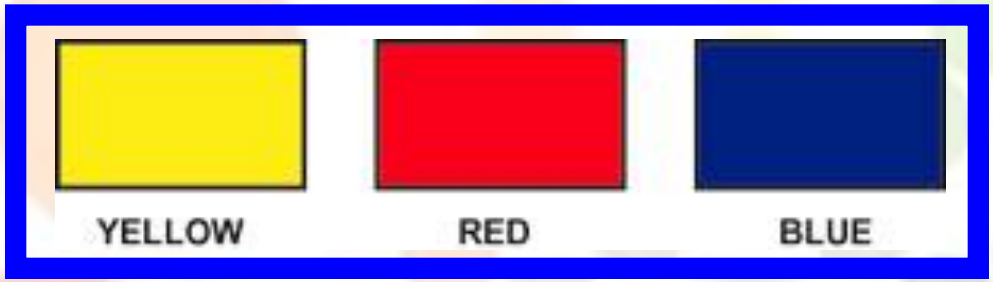
Click on the Red Boxes to the Right to Proceed

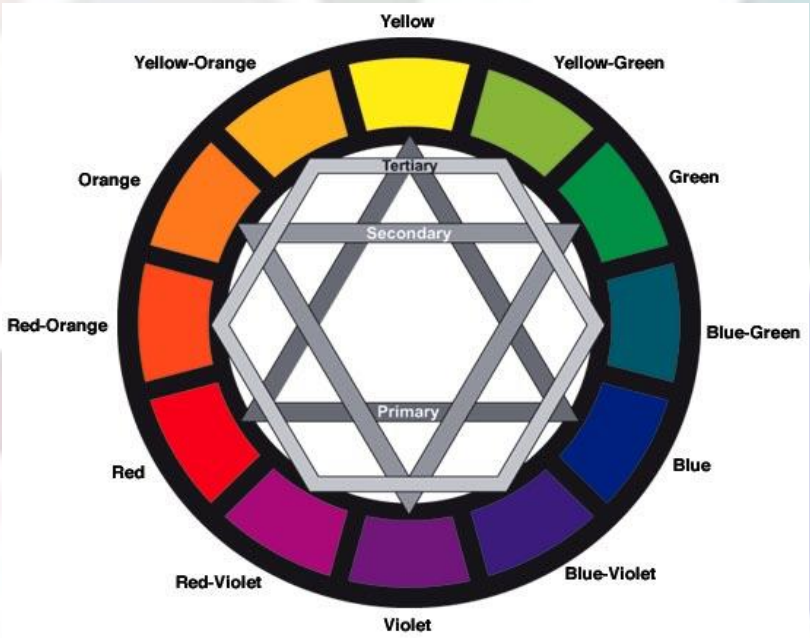
Secondary Colors

Tertiary Colors

Primary Colors



- The primary colors are red, blue, and yellow.
- Primary colors cannot be made from other colors.



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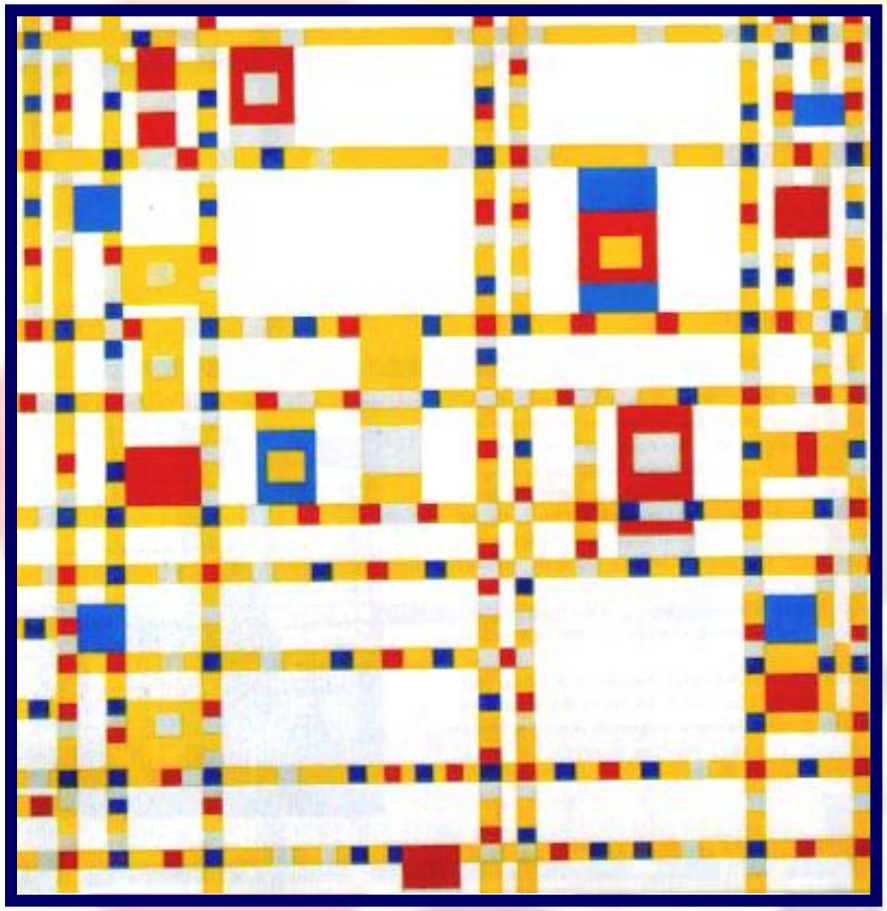
Secondary Colors

Tertiary Colors

Primary Colors



Boogie Woogie By Piet Mondrian

- Can you see the primary colors in this painting by Piet Mondrian?
- What shapes did Mondrian use in this painting?

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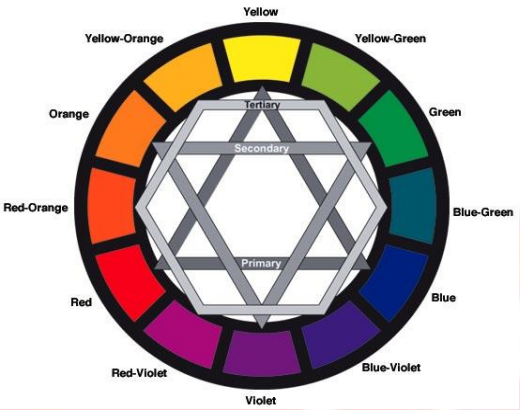
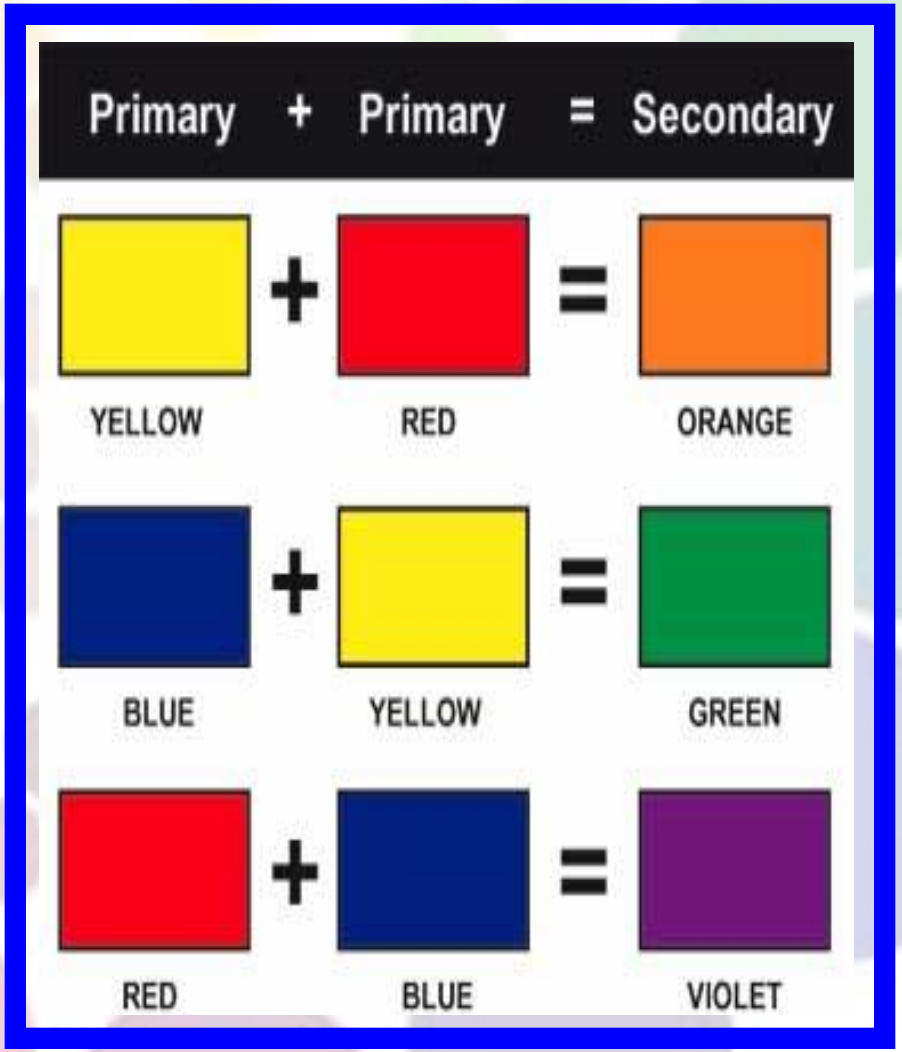
Primary Colors

Tertiary Colors

Secondary Colors



- The secondary colors are orange, green, and purple.
- Secondary colors are made from mixing the primary colors.



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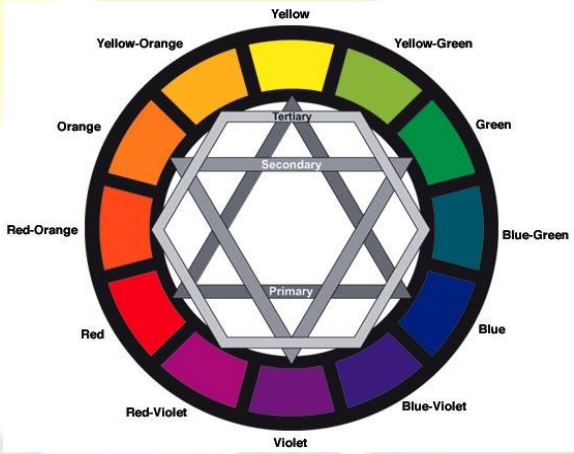
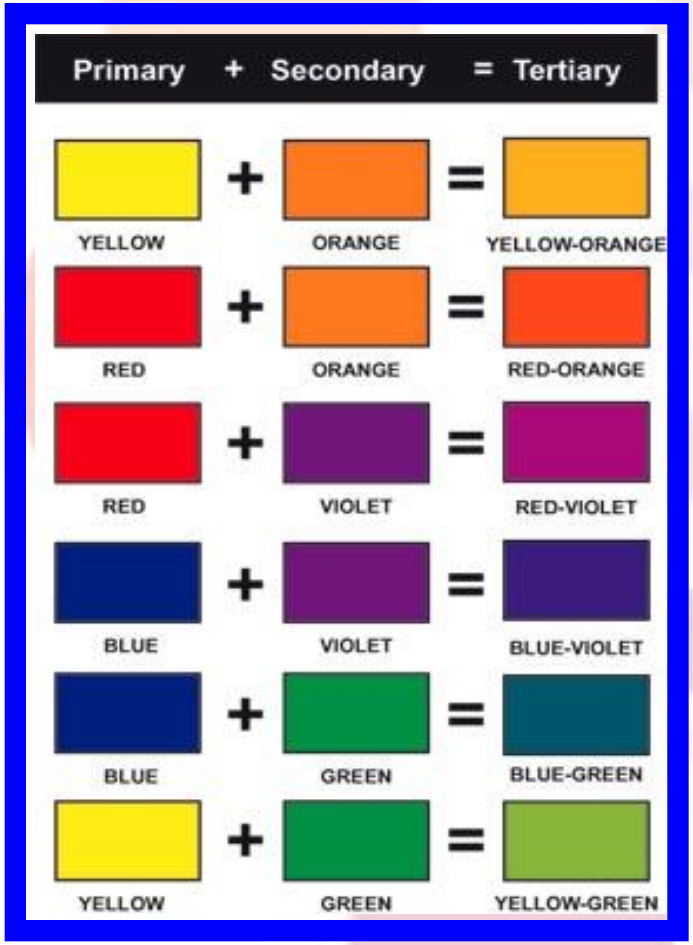
Primary Colors

Secondary Colors

Intermediate Colors





- **Mixing primary and secondary colors creates Intermediate colors. Intermediate colors include:**
  1) **Red-Violet**
  2) **Blue-Violet**
  3) **Blue-Green**
  4) **Yellow Green**
  5) **Red-Orange**
  6) **Yellow-Orange**
- **On the color wheel, the Intermediate colors are located between the primary and secondary colors they are made from.**

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Cool Colors

Warm Colors

- The warm colors are red, orange, yellow, and anything in between.
- They are called warm because they remind you of the sun or fire.
- Warm colors seem to come out at you in space.

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Cool Colors

Warm Colors

The Fighting Temeraire by William Turner

- In *The Fighting Temeraire* by William Turner, the warm colors of the sunset give a feeling of brightness and heat. Look at the red spreading from the setting sun and the deep golden glow on the water. If you're feeling cold, looking at colors like these can actually make you feel warmer!

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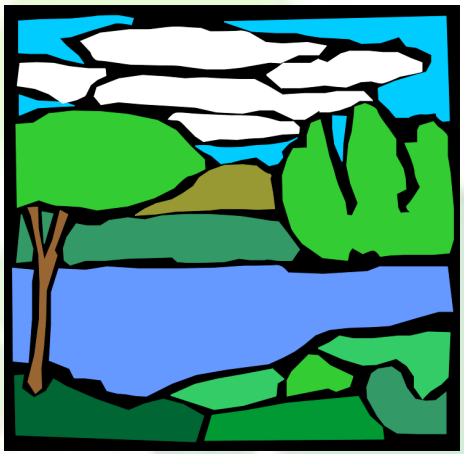
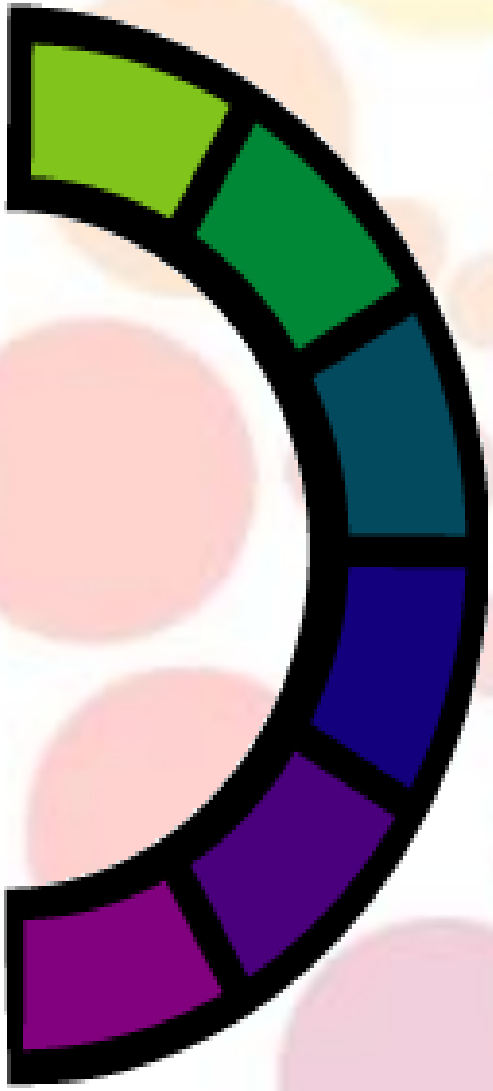
Warm Colors

Cool Colors





- The Cool colors are **blue, green, purple** and anything in between.
- They are called cool because they remind you of the earth or a cool creek.
- Cool colors seem to recede from you in space.

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Warm Colors

Cool Colors

The Walk, Lady with a Parasol
by Claude Monet

- In this painting by Claude Monet, ***The Walk, Lady with a Parasol***, the cool colors of the ground and sky contributes to the peaceful feeling of the painting. Imagine how different the painting would look with a bright red sky—it might seem more exciting or energetic than restful.

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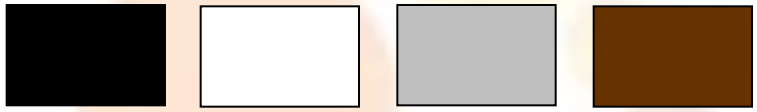
Neutrals



- Neutrals don't usually show up on the color wheel. Neutrals include black, white, gray, and sometimes brown and beige. They are sometimes called "earth tones."
- There are a few different ways to make neutrals. You can blend black and white to make gray. You can create brown in two ways—by blending two complementary colors together or by blending all three primary colors together.

Snow in New York

by Robert Henri

In *Snow in New York*, Robert Henri uses many different neutrals. You can see a few glimpses of red paint, but the overall effect is of natural browns, whites and grays--like those you might see in rocks, sand, dirt, or clay.

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Analogous Colors

- These colors are located next to each other on the wheel, such as:
  - Blue, Blue-green, Green
  - Red, Red-Orange, and Orange
- Analogous colors are sometimes called harmonious colors.

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Analogous Colors

Sunflowers

By Vincent Van Gogh

- Orange, yellow-orange, and yellow are also examples of analogous colors. They are blended nicely in *Sunflowers*, a painting by Vincent Van Gogh. How do you know that these colors are closely related? They share a color—each of them contains some yellow.

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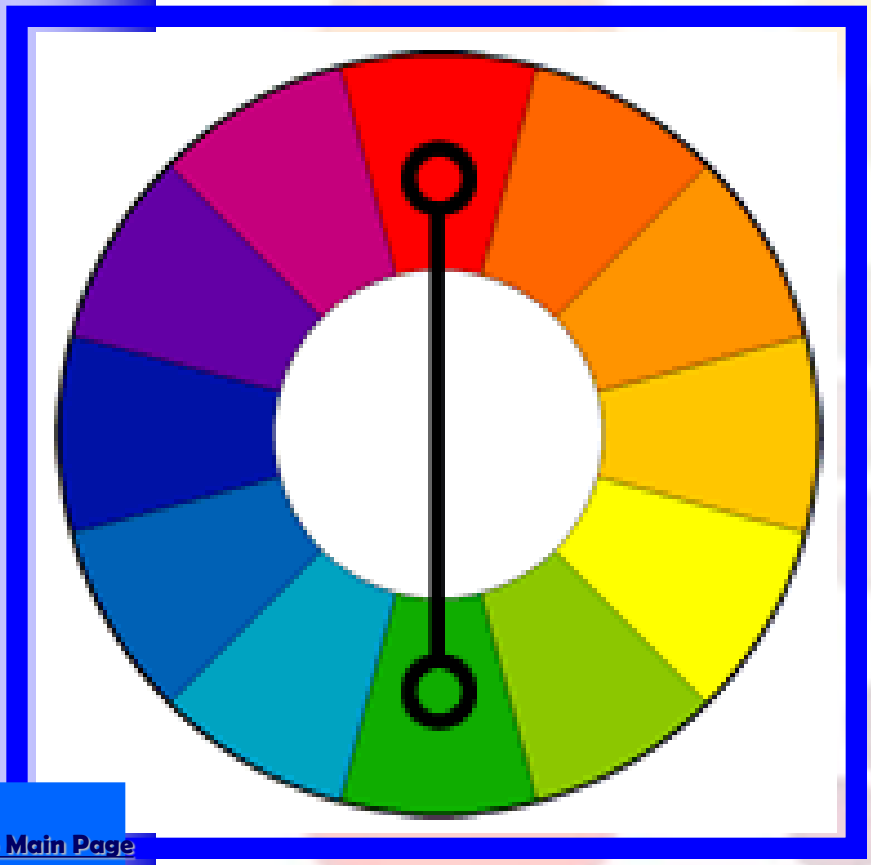
Complementary Colors



- Complementary colors are the colors that are directly across from each other on the color wheel
  - Blue & Orange
  - Red & Green
  - Purple & Yellow

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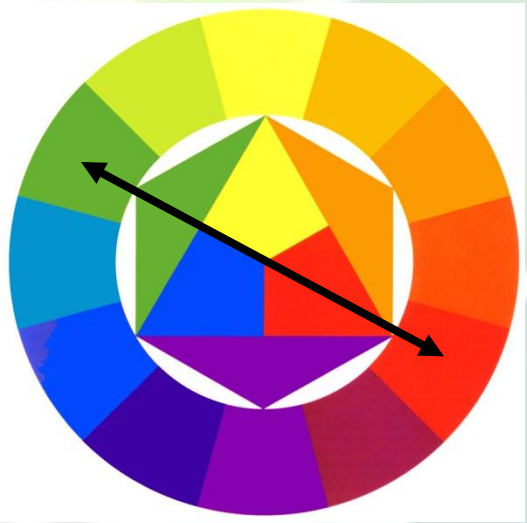
Complementary Colors



Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose
by John Singer Sargent

- Red and green are an example of complementary colors. Look at the painting *Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose* by John Singer Sargent. The reddish-pink color of the flowers really stands out against the green background. Imagine if Sargent had painted all yellow or blue flowers instead. They would just blend in with the green (ho-hum).

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COLOR MIXING

Tints and Shades

Making Tints and Shades

- A shade of color is made by mixing that color with black.
- A tint of color is made by mixing that color with white.

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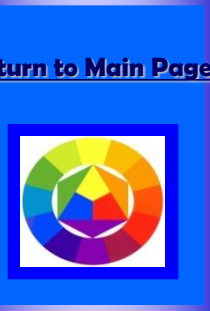

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COLOR MIXING

Tints and Shades

Fields in a Rising Storm

By Vincent Van Gogh

- This painting by Vincent Van Gogh, *Fields in a Rising Storm,* has tints and shades of blue in the sky, and tints and shades of green in the fields.

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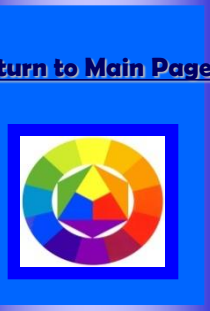
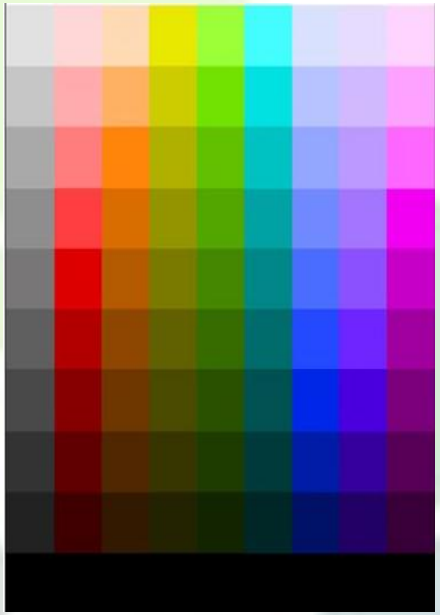


NEXT

Go to Value

COLOR MIXING

Value, Tints, & Shades



The lightness or darkness of a color is called its value.

- **Tints** are light values that are made by mixing a color with white. For example, pink is a tint of red (red+white), and gray is a tint of black (black+white).
- **Shades** are dark values that are made by mixing a color with black. Maroon is a shade of red, and navy is a shade of blue.

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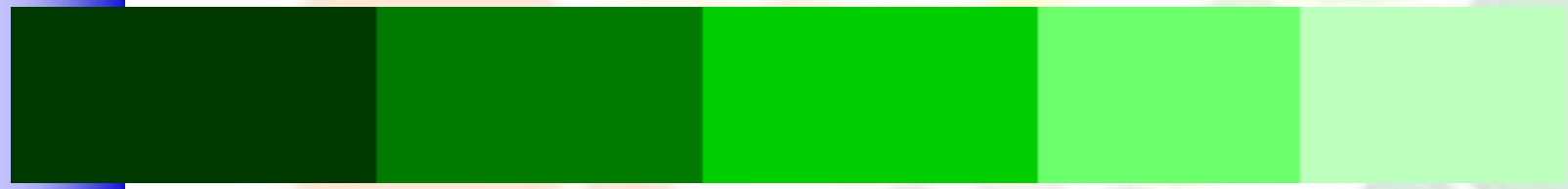
Monochromatic Colors



- A monochromatic scheme consists of different values (tints and shades) of a single color. An example of a monochrome color scheme could include any color mixed with white or black. The example above is a green monochromatic color scheme.
  - A shade of green is made by mixing green and black.
  - A tint of green is made by mixing green and white.

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COLOR SCHEME GAME

Can you identify the color scheme in the image below?

Is it a....

Primary Colors ★

Red, yellow and blue - may not be created by mixing other colors.

Secondary Colors

They result from the mixing of two of the primary colors. Orange, green, and purple.

Cool Colors

Colors ranging between blue-violet and yellow-green on the color wheel.

Warm Colors

Colors ranging between yellow to red-violet on the color wheel.

Monochromatic Colors

Tints (color + white) and shades (color +black) of a single color.

Complementary Colors

Colors that are opposite of each other on the color wheel.

Analogous Colors

Analogous colors are three colors that are right next to each other on the color wheel.

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Click the Mouse Anywhere to Reveal the Answer

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The End

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Resources

Images have been borrowed from the following websites…

- ***Fields in a Rising Storm*** **by Vincent Van Gogh**
  - **www.factmonster.com**
- ***The Fighting Temeraire*** **by William Turner**
  - **www.all-art.org**
- ***Sunflowers*** **by Vincent Van Gogh**
  - **www.allartclassic.com**
- ***The Walk, Lady with a Parasol*** **by Claude Monet**
  - ***www.latifm.com***
- ***Snow in New York*** **by Robert Henri**
  - ***www.usc.edu***
- ***Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose*** **by John Singer Sargent**
  - ***www.artcyclopedia.com***
- ***Boogie Woogie*** **by Piet Mondrian**
  - **www.paintings.name/piet-mondrian-biography.php**

Weblinks

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Web Links

- Clickable Color Wheel
  - Basic Color Schemes Color Wheel
- Carmine's Introduction to Color
  - This site uses fun rhymes to explain what primary, secondary, and intermediate colors are. Mix colors before moving to another page and complete a quiz on color wheels.
- Sanford's ArtEdventures with Carmine Chameleon
  - During this online adventure kids can learn about the color wheel, primary, secondary, and intermediate colors. Students also can find out what colors create these secondary and tertiary colors. Includes interactive game for mixing colors online.
- Color Factory
  - Visit the online color factory for fun activities. Select the "Sorting Sector" and practice your knowledge of the color wheel by selecting and placing right colors into the circle. Go to the "Mixing Room" and create secondary and intermediate colors using online mixing machine then go to the "Messy Area" to paint pictures.
- Make a Splash with Color
  - Learn about color. Find out why and how we see colors. Discover how hue, saturation, and brightness effect an image. Click on the "Combining All Three" link to go to the part of the site with interactive color wheel for practicing use of hue and saturation.
- The Science of Light: Made from Dots
  - Read how cyan, magenta, and yellow colored dots are mixed together to produce images on paper. Click on the "Go" link and use three swatches to mix and match colors.
- The World of Color
  - Here are interactive applets that demonstrate how colors interact, mix with each other, and affect images.
- Additive Color
  - Learn what color addition is and how it works. Use spotlights to practice mixing colors.
- Subtractive Color
  - Find out how color subtraction works and mix some colors.

Resource List

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