

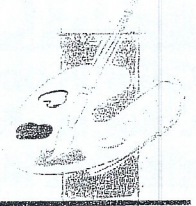


# ART REVIEW

## Color Theory Overview

ART EDUCATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Knowledge through studies in Art

What every artist should know

### COLOR THEORY

Color is a factor of light. White light contains the full spectrum of colors that are visible to us. We see white light broken into the full color spectrum when we see a rainbow.

### COLOR WHEEL

The placement of colors in a rainbow are similar to the placement of colors on a color wheel.

All color wheels start with the primaries cyan (blue), magenta (red), and yellow. To create the other colors on the basis of these three you derive three more, then six more, and so on, up to twenty-four. (After twenty-four one is simply splitting hairs trying to define new colors).

The fundamental concepts that apply to the mixing of colors:

#### Primary colors:

**Red, Yellow, & Blue**—these colors cannot be made from any other color.

#### Secondary colors:

**Orange, Green, & Violet**—these colors are formed by mixing equal parts of any two primaries:

- Red + Yellow = Orange
- Yellow + Blue = Green
- Red + Blue = Violet

#### Tertiary colors:

(also known as intermediate color)

Tertiary color are mixtures of one primary color and one secondary color. The correct formula for mixing a tertiary color mixing one primary that is at 100% saturation and any other primary that is at 50% saturation.

There are six tertiary colors:

- Red-Orange, Yellow-Orange,
- Yellow-Green, Blue-Green,
- Blue-Violet, Red-Violet.

#### Quaternary colors:

Quaternary colors are formulated through an intricate mixing process. They are formed by mixing one primary that is at 100% saturation with any other primary that is at either 25% or 75% saturation.

#### There are twelve quaternary colors:

Cherry red, red, red-orange, yellow-orange, yellow-green, warm green, cool green, blue-green, blue, ultramarine blue, violet-mauve, and red-violet.

For all practical purposes, we will gain experience mixing primary, secondary, and tertiary colors.

#### Color Temperature:

Color temperature is a term that refers to the warmth or coolness of a color. The traditional artist's color wheel divides warm and cool colors by splitting the color wheel in half—The left half is considered warm colors and the right half is considered cool.

#### WARM COLORS: VS. COOL COLORS:

- |        |        |
|--------|--------|
| Red    | Blue   |
| Orange | Violet |
| Yellow | Green  |

#### Color Schemes

Complementary Color schemes uses opposite colors on the color wheel. It makes for the most striking color combinations. Placing high-intensity complementary colors close together in an artwork can create an unusual flickering effect.

Example: Red & Green, Blue & Orange, Yellow & Violet.

Analogous Color schemes using two primaries and their mixtures; colors that are side by side on the color wheel and share a hue.

Example: Using Yellow & Red = *in this analogous color scheme would include all hues that are created by mixing yellow and red together. Yellow, Yellow-Orange, Orange, and Red-Orange.*

You view this analogous color scheme by observing the leaves turning color during the fall foliage.

Monochromatic Color scheme uses different tints or shades of a single color. Monochromatic colors are achieved by mixing a hue with various amounts of black and white.

Tint: Is created when you add white to a color.

Shade: Is created when you add black to a color.

Value: Is the lightness or darkness of a color.

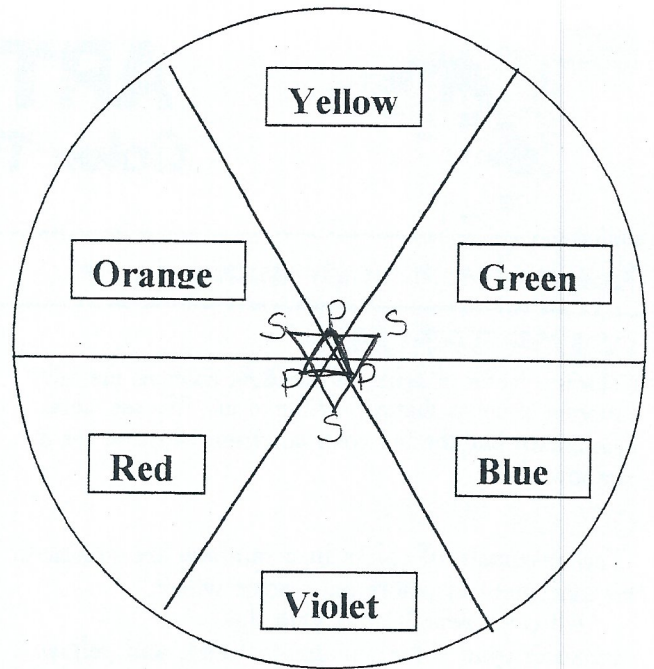
Darks and lights become more powerful elements in composition because they help us to define shapes more readily.



# BASIC COLOR THEORY

Color is one of the design elements.  
Color is often the most noticeable design element in an artwork.

☆ Color the boxes as labeled. ☆

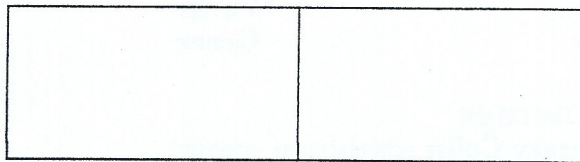


**PRIMARY COLORS:**  
RED, YELLOW, & BLUE

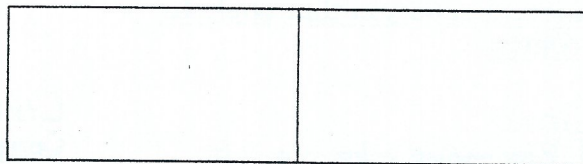
**SECONDARY COLORS:**  
ORANGE, VIOLET, & GREEN

**COMPLEMENTARY COLORS:**

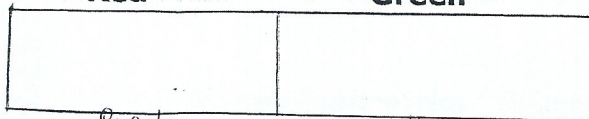
- ◆ Are **OPPOSITES** on the **COLOR WHEEL**.
- ◆ Red/Green, Blue/Orange, & Yellow/Violet
- ◆ Placing complementary colors next to each other enhances them.



Blue                      Orange



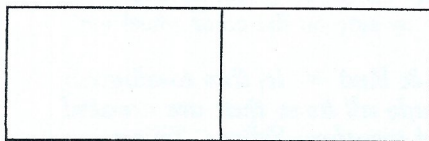
Red                      Green



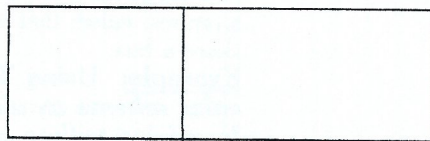
Purple                      Yellow

**INTENSITY:**

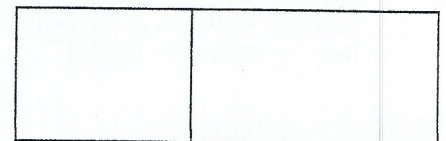
- ◆ Refers to the BRIGHTNESS of a color.
- ◆ To LOWER THE INTENSITY of a color, mix it with its' complement.



Red                      Red+Green

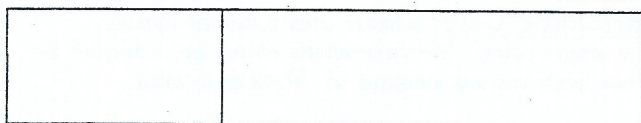


Blue                      Blue+Orange



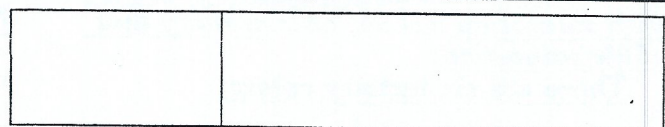
Yellow                      Yellow+Violet

**TINT:** Is any color PLUS WHITE.



Blue                      Blue + White = TINT

**SHADE:** Is any color PLUS BLACK.



Blue                      Blue + Black = SHADE

**WARM COLORS:** Are RED, YELLOW, & ORANGE.

**COOL COLORS:** Are BLUE, GREEN, & VIOLET.

**ANALOGOUS COLORS:** Are colors that sit side by side on the color wheel and have a common hue. Examples-Red-ORANGE, Orange, YELLOW, Yellow-Orange are analogous because they all have yellow in common.