

Color Theory



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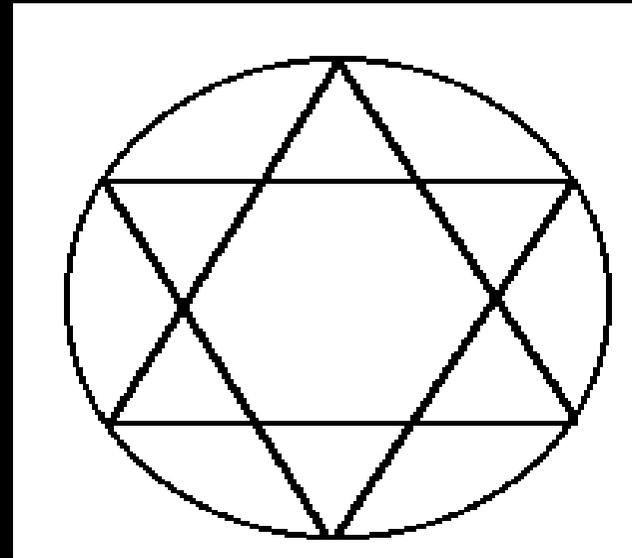
Color Wheel

Color Values

Color Schemes

The Color Wheel

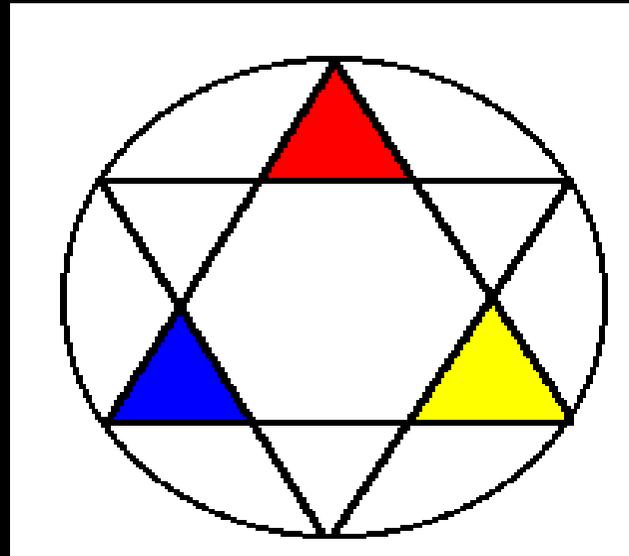
The color wheel fits together like a puzzle - each color in a specific place. Being familiar with the color wheel not only helps you mix colors when painting, but in adding color to all your art creations.



Primary Colors

Primary colors are not mixed from other elements and they generate all other colors.

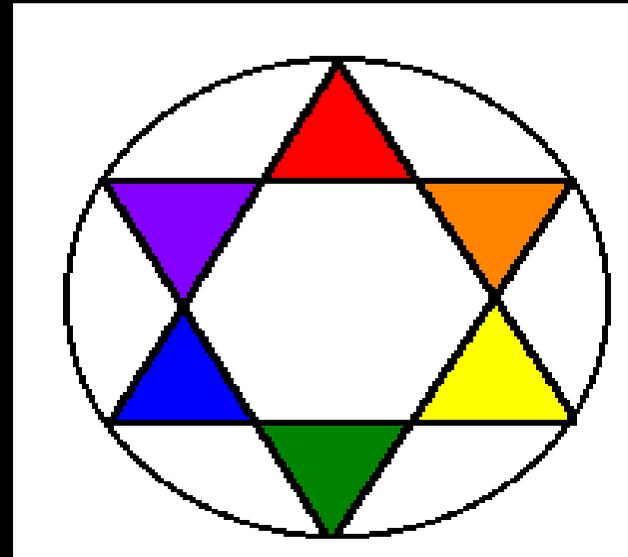
- Red
- Yellow
- Blue



Secondary Colors

By mixing two primary colors, a secondary color is created.

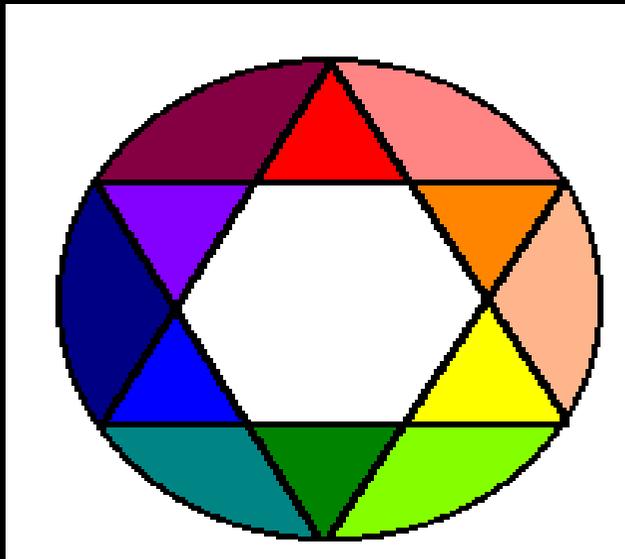
- Red + Yellow = Orange
- Yellow + Blue = Green
- Blue + Red = Purple



Intermediate Colors

Intermediate, or Tertiary, colors are created by mixing a primary and a secondary.

- red-orange
- yellow-orange
- yellow-green

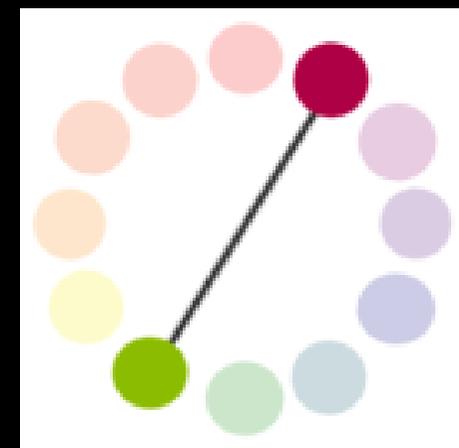
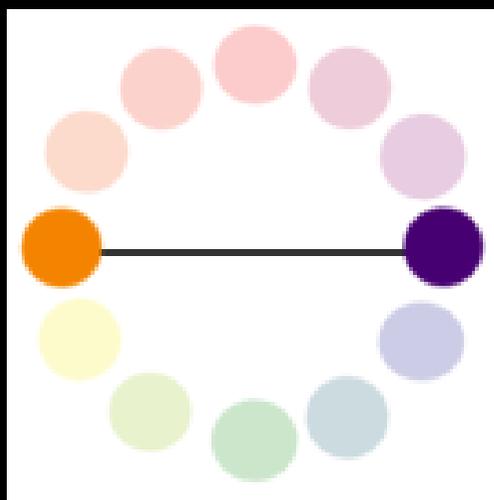
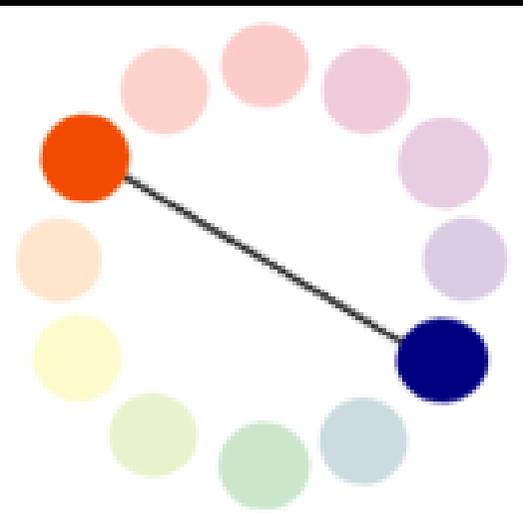
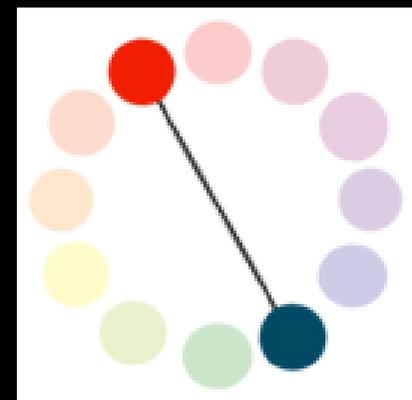
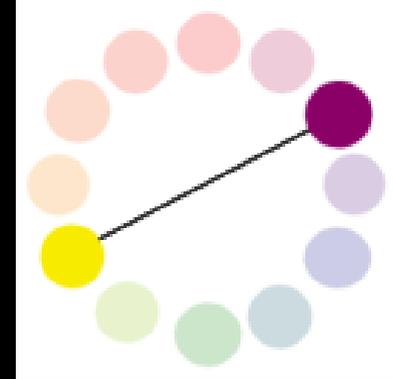
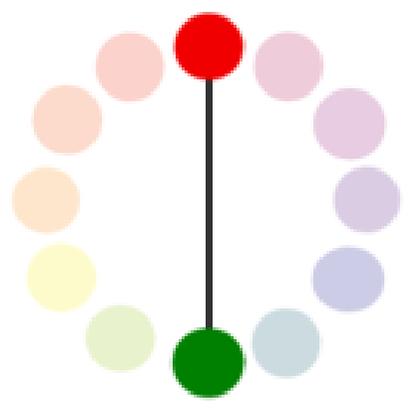


- blue-green
- blue-purple
- red-purple

Neutral Colors

The neutrals are created when you mix two complementary (opposite) colors together. They lessen the intensity of a color. Neutral colors help create depth, for they recede in space, or in other words make things look further away. You need good color rich neutrals in shadows or in the background!

What colors can you mix to form a neutral?





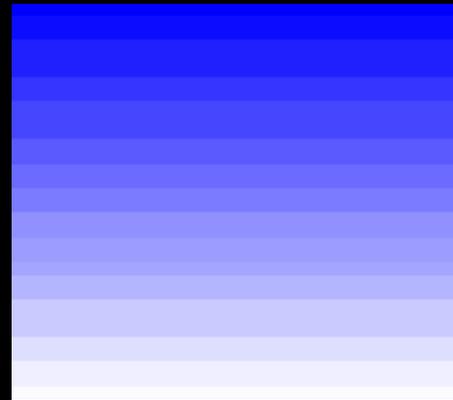
Color Values

Color values are the lights and darks of a color created by using black and white the color. Make sure you mix them in the correct order!

- **white + color = tint**
- **color + black = shade**

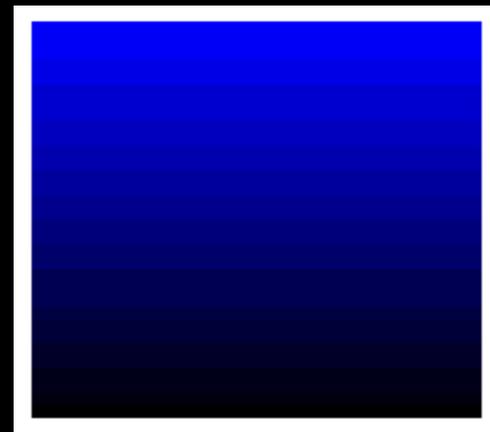
Tints

Tints are lightened colors. Always begin with white and add a bit of color to the white until the desired tint is obtained. This is an example of a value scale for the tints of blue.



Shades

Shades are darkened colors. Always begin with the color and add just a bit of black at a time to get the desired shade of a color. This is an example of a value scale for the shades of blue.



Color Schemes

Color Schemes are a systematic way of using the color wheel to put colors together... in your art work, putting together the clothes you wear, deciding what colors to paint your room.....

Monochromatic

“Mono” means “one”, “chroma” means “color”...
monochromatic color schemes have only one color and its values. The following slide shows a painting done in a monochromatic color scheme.

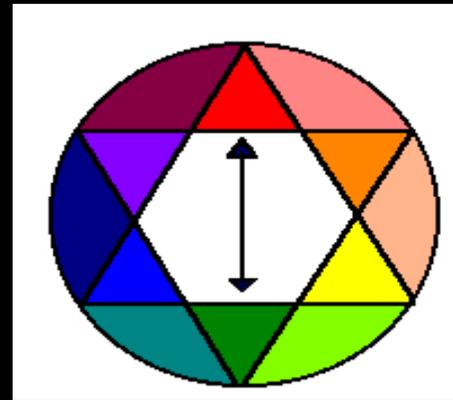


- This monochromatic painting has both tints and shades of green in it.

Complementary

Complementary colors are opposite on the color wheel provided a high contrast –

When you mix complements you will get a neutral color



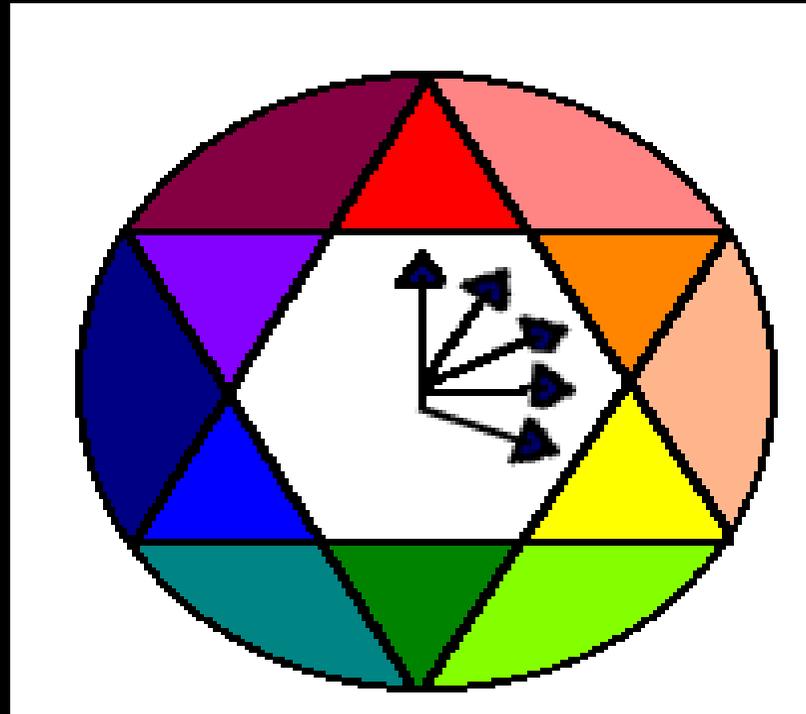


This painting has **complementary** colors and their values – reds and greens



Analogous

The analogous color scheme is 3-5 colors adjacent to each other on the color wheel. This combination of colors provides very little contrast.

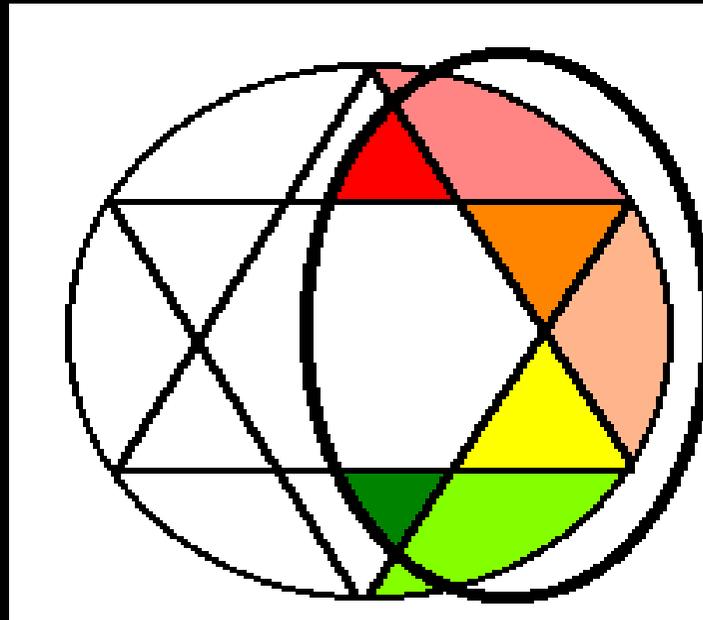




Analogous colors are illustrated here: yellow, yellow-green, green and blue-green.

Warm

Warm colors are found on the right side of the color wheel. Warm colors make objects look closer in a painting or drawing.

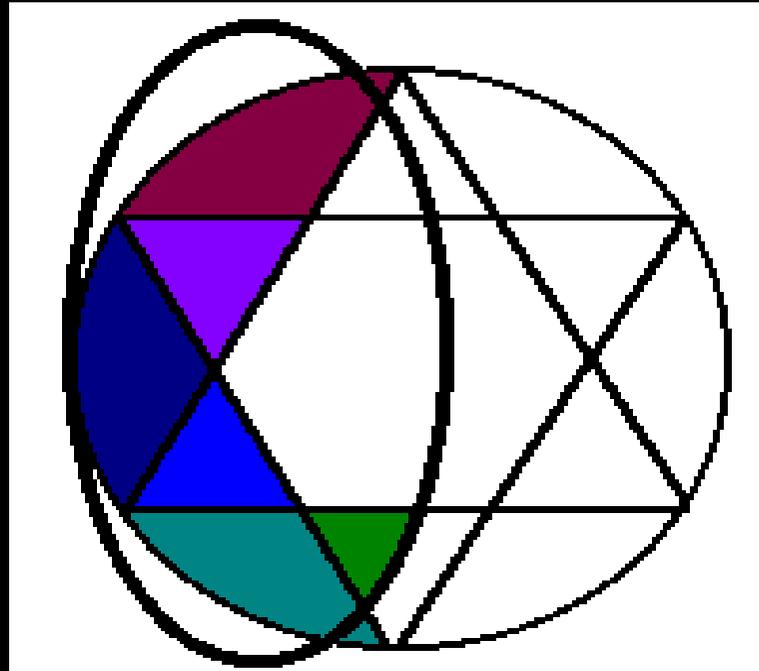




This is an illustration of the use of **warm** colors - reds, oranges and yellows.

Cool

Cool colors are found on the left side of the color wheel. Cool colors tend to recede in a composition.





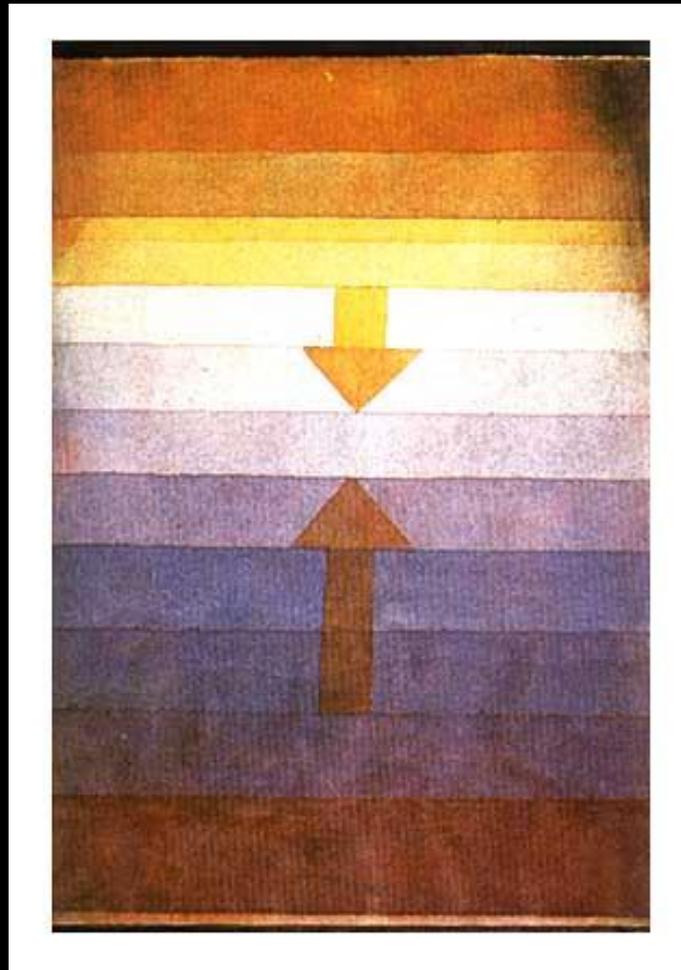
Note the **cool** color scheme in this painting (greens, purples and blues).



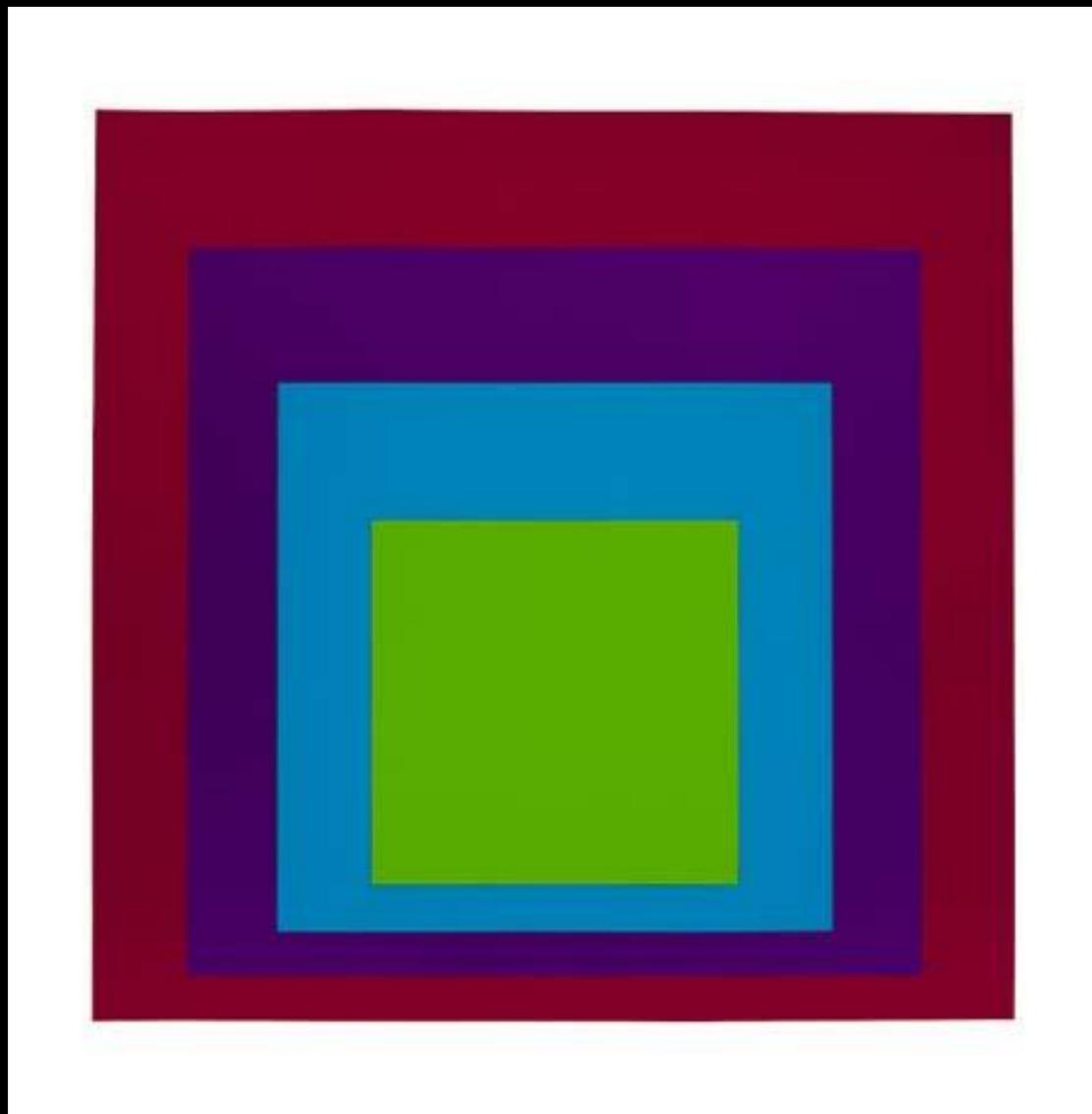


This picture is showing you **atmospheric perspective:**
Warm Brighter versions of colors in the front
Cool and neutral versions of colors in the background

There are many artist who use color as their main visual element...



Josef Albers



Frank Stella





Morris Louis

Mark Rothko



MARK ROTHKO
'UNTITLED (GREEN, RED ON ORANGE)', 1951



Let's Review

- The primary colors are: red blue yellow
- When you mix them they make secondary colors: orange green purple
- When you mix secondary and primary colors you get tertiary colors: red-orange and red-purple
yellow-orange and yellow-green
blue-green and blue-purple

Colors that work best in the Background: **Cool,**
Neutral, and **shades of the original colors**

Colors that work best in the Foreground: **Warm and**
Bright

Cool colors are in the blue family

Warm colors are in the yellow and red family

- Color schemes help paintings look unified
- By mixing a color with its compliment you get a neutralized version of the color:

Red's compliment is Green

Yellow's compliment is Purple

Blue's compliment is Orange

Neutrals are not just brown! This is a neutral Blue

This is a neutral Green , This is a neutral Orange,

This is a neutral Red, This is a neutral Yellow

- Mixing colors properly saves time and paint!

Light pigment + darker pigment = correct color mixing technique

- The value of a color is the light or darkness of the color

A **TINT** is the lighter version of a color

A **SHADE** is a darker version of the color

Value is used to add depth, 3-D, and makes your art look more like real life!

- Analogous colors have to touch each other, an easy way to remember is to name the **primary**, then the **tertiary** then **secondary** the color in a row!





