

# Color Theory

Hello Students!

Some of you have recently begun painting your self-portraits. This all came after you had painting boot camp, cleaned up your workspaces and sketched out your figures. As some of you will continue to paint, it is important to remember the basics when it comes to color theory and painting. This will help you greatly as you continue your portraits. **Write responses down on a different sheet of paper.**



The color wheel, with examples of **primary**, **secondary** and **tertiary** colors.

Above is an example of a color wheel, with information that you all should be familiar with. This wheel breaks down colors by their category and nicely places the tertiary colors within the basic six colors.

Yet, some concepts we have not yet discussed are the following:

- **Warm & Cool** Colors
- **Hue, Shade, Tint** and **Tone**

**Hue, Shade, Tint** and **Tone** refer to way a color changes when a *neutral* is added to it.



Remember that  
*neutral* colors  
consist of:  
**Black**  
**White**  
**Gray**  
**Brown** (which will  
not apply to this  
concept)



Notice how the color changes only slightly within these pictures, but the shift in color totally depends on how much white, gray, or black you're adding. Warm and cool colors can best be imagined by drawing an imaginary line that cuts your color wheel in half. You can think of term as you would about **temperature**.

### COOL

Green  
Blue  
Purple/Violet

### WARM

Red  
Orange  
Yellow



Warm colors are generally associated with **energy, brightness, and action**, whereas cool colors are often identified with **calm, peace, and serenity**.

## Task

- Watch a movie/TV show at home of your choosing. Consider the dominant colors in each scene. How do they make you feel?
  - Write down three entries:
  - How does a scene with cool colors make you feel/what is the *mood* given the color?
- Why did the creators of this film choose that color for that scene?
- Would things feel differently if the colors in the scene were different?

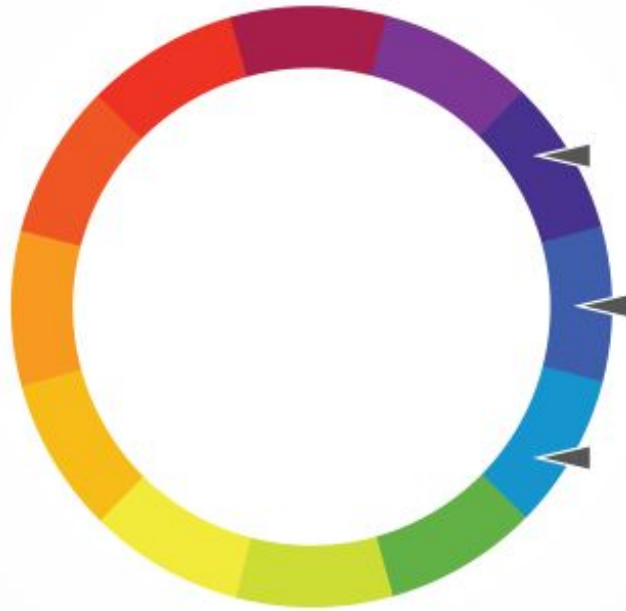
# Complementary



2 colors:  
Opposite

- Consider only the warm and cool colors on the previous page. Now, look at the **complementary** wheel above, which describes two colors as *opposites*. If orange is the opposite of blue, what are the other complementary, or opposite, pairings?
- Write down the complementary pairings.
- Orange > Blue
- Yellow > Blue
- Red >

# Analogous



3 colors:  
Side-by-side



2. **Analogous** colors sit next to one another on the color wheel—blue, blue-violet, and violet, for example. These colors are also ever present in nature, and are said to be pleasing to the human eye!

- Find an example of analogous colors outdoors or in nature.
- Describe what you see and whether these colors are side-by-side on the color wheel.

## Triadic



3 colors:  
Equally spaced around the wheel



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3. Take a look at the definition of **triadic** colors, and draw a connection to the popular *Burger King* logo. These colors work well together in part because of the relationship they have to each other as triads.

- Red, Blue and Yellow are what kinds of colors?
- Write down the response.

Decker, Kris. "The Bold, Bright Truth about Color Theory." *99designs*, 99designs, 24 Jan. 2020, [99designs.com/blog/tips/the-7-step-guide-to-understanding-color-theory/](https://99designs.com/blog/tips/the-7-step-guide-to-understanding-color-theory/).