

Colorful Language

Save this list of helpful terms for reference.

Primary colors of paint are red, yellow, and blue. They cannot be made by mixing other colors but when combined will create all the other colors. (Note that there is a different set of primaries when it comes to mixing light, not paint. The primary light colors—the ones that are used in your TV and computer monitor—are red, blue, and green.)

Secondary paint colors (green, purple, and orange) are obtained by mixing equal amounts of two primaries. Tertiary paint colors (red-orange, red-violet, yellow-green, yellow-orange, blue-green, and blue-violet) are made by mixing a primary color with its adjacent secondary color.

Complementary colors are those positioned opposite one another on the color wheel: for example, red and green; yellow and violet; blue and orange. When placed side by side, complementary colors intensify each other.

Warm colors—reds, yellows, oranges, and red-violets—are those of fire and the sun. They appear to project. Cool colors—blues, blue-greens, and blue-violets—are those of ice and the ocean. They appear to recede.

Pigments are intensely colored compounds—some organic, some inorganic—that are used to produce the color in paints and dyes. In paint they are finely powdered and mixed with a medium such as oil.

Hue is synonymous with color (black and white are not hues).

Shade is a hue produced by the addition of black.

Tint is a hue produced by the addition of white.

The saturation of a color is its degree of purity.

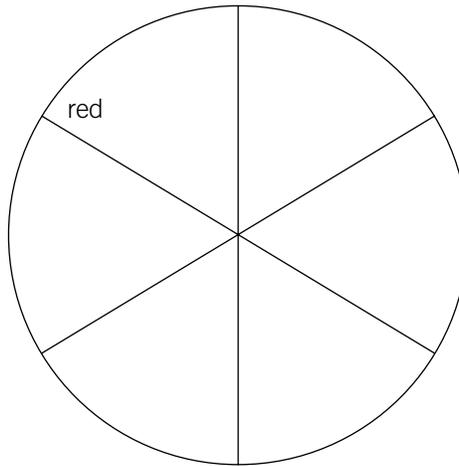
Modeling is the creation of a sense of depth; it can be achieved by gradations of dark and light or through color contrast.

Optical mixing is the process by which the eyes visually blend brushstrokes of pure colors to create a new intermediate tone.

A palette is the selection of colors found in a work of art; the word also refers to the thin board on which an artist holds and mixes pigments.

Test Your Knowledge of Color

1. Complete the color wheel below with the names of the appropriate colors.



2. Draw lines between the complements:

red	orange
blue	purple
yellow	green

3. Create two palettes by labeling the paint colors below with W for a warm palette, and with C for cool colors.

___ yellow	___ red	___ green	___ orange	___ blue	___ purple
___ lavender	___ brown	___ ocher	___ gold	___ turquoise	___ aqua
___ burgundy	___ crimson	___ tan	___ chartreuse	___ violet	___ peach

4. Complete the following sentences:

Complementary colors next to each other appear _____.

To enhance the vividness of blue, it could be painted next to _____.

_____ colors advance, while _____ colors recede.

To make a tint of red, I should add _____. It will yield _____.

_____ mixing occurs when small dabs of paint blend in the eye.