

Kelly's Kids

# COLOR THEORY

For Kids!

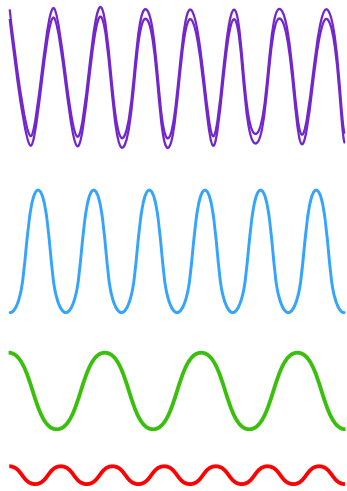


**THE KELLY**  
Kelly Fitzpatrick Center for the Arts

# WHAT IS COLOR?

Did you know that color comes from light?

Light is an energy that moves very fast—about 186,282 miles per second! Light might look white when it shines from the sun or a flashlight, but it actually contains a rainbow of colors, more than our eyes can see! And every color we see is a result of how light travels.



## HOW DOES LIGHT TRAVEL?

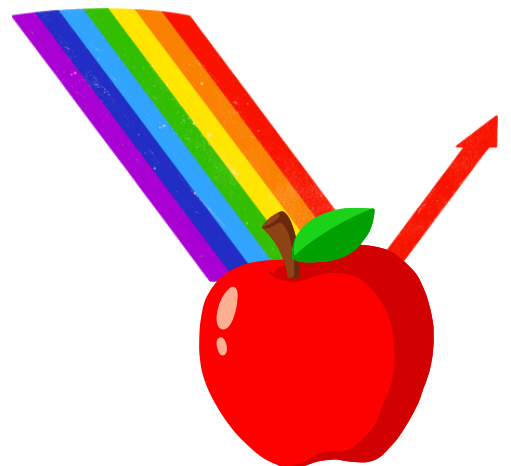
Light travels in waves, kind of like an ocean wave. Each wave is different; some are short, and some are long. When a scientist measures how far apart the waves are, they call it “Wavelengths.”

Each color has a different wavelength.

## BUT HOW DOES THAT MAKE COLOR?

When light shines on something, some of the light’s wavelengths are absorbed into that object, but some of the light’s wavelengths bounce off. What color that object is depends on which lights bounce off.

So an apple is red because it absorbs all the light wavelengths except for red, which bounces off, and our eyes see the reflected red.



# COLOR MIXING

# Primary Colors

The primary colors are:

Red

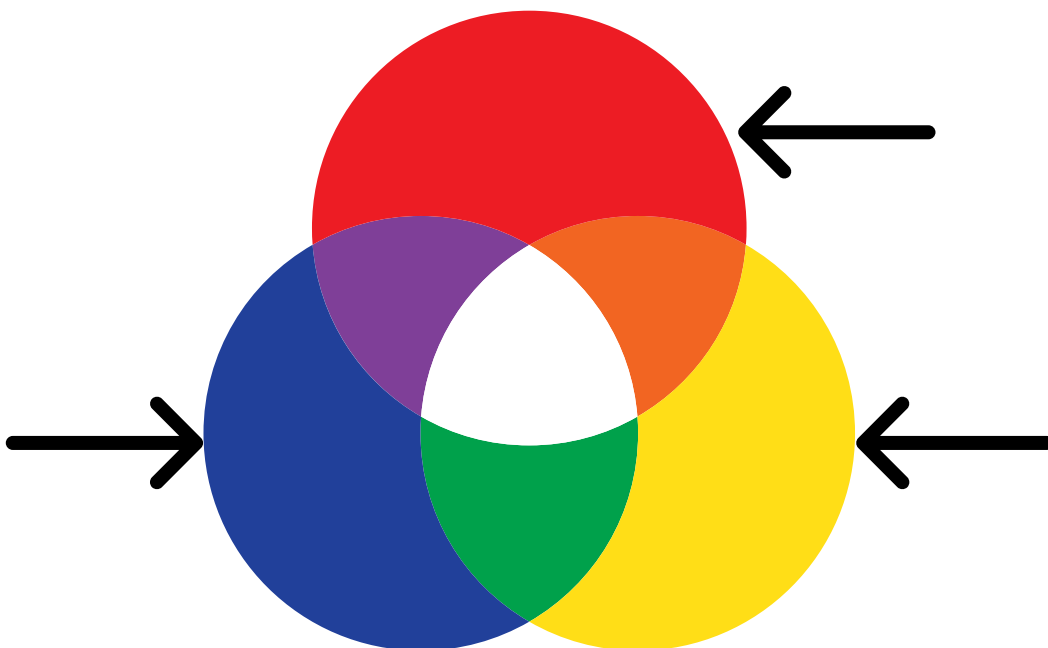
Yellow

Blue

## WHAT'S A PRIMARY COLOR?

Primary colors can make ALL other colors. So Primary colors are like the parents of all other colors. If you mix red and yellow, you can make orange. If you mix red and blue, you can make purple. And if you mix blue and yellow, you can make green.

And if you were to mix all the primary colors together, you would get White -- like the color of light.



# COLOR MIXING

## Secondary Colors

The secondary colors are:

Orange

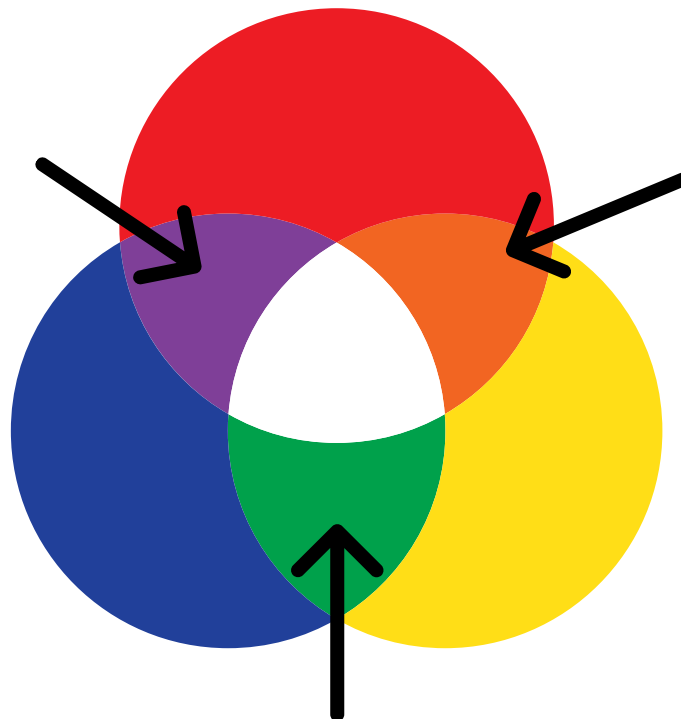
Purple

Green

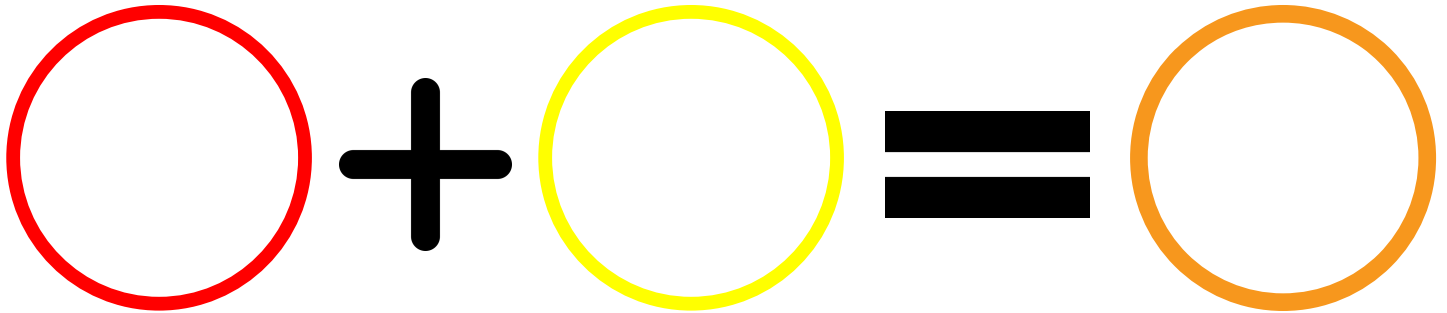
### WHAT'S A SECONDARY COLOR?

Secondary colors are the colors that are made when you mix two Primary colors. So they're like the children of the Primary Colors.

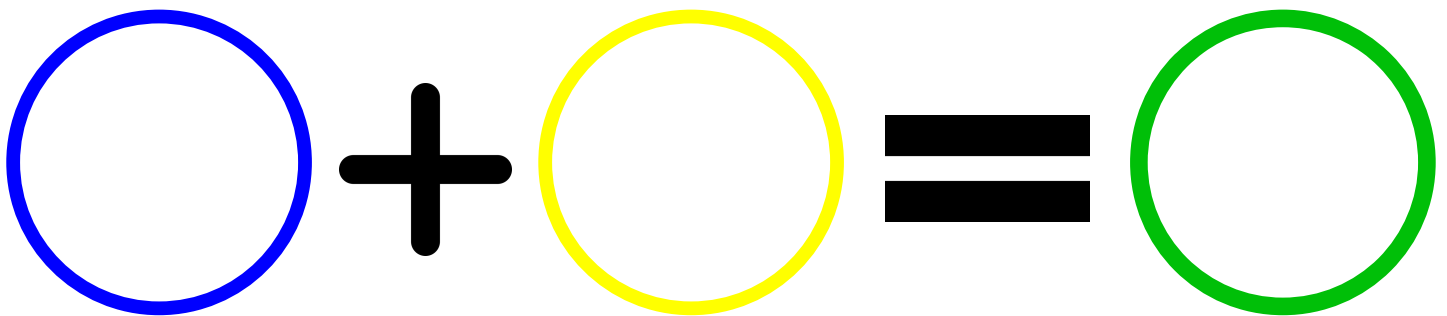
You can make any color by mixing primary and secondary colors!



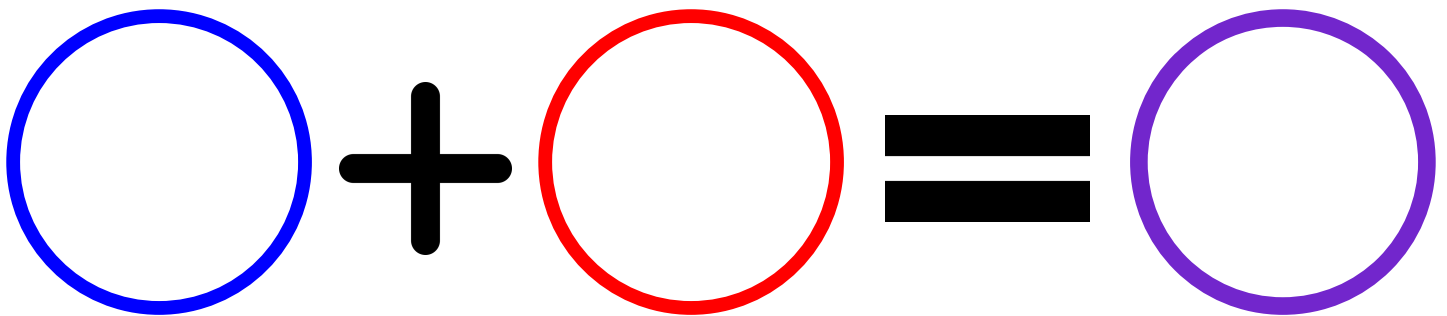
# COLOR MIXING Practice



Orange

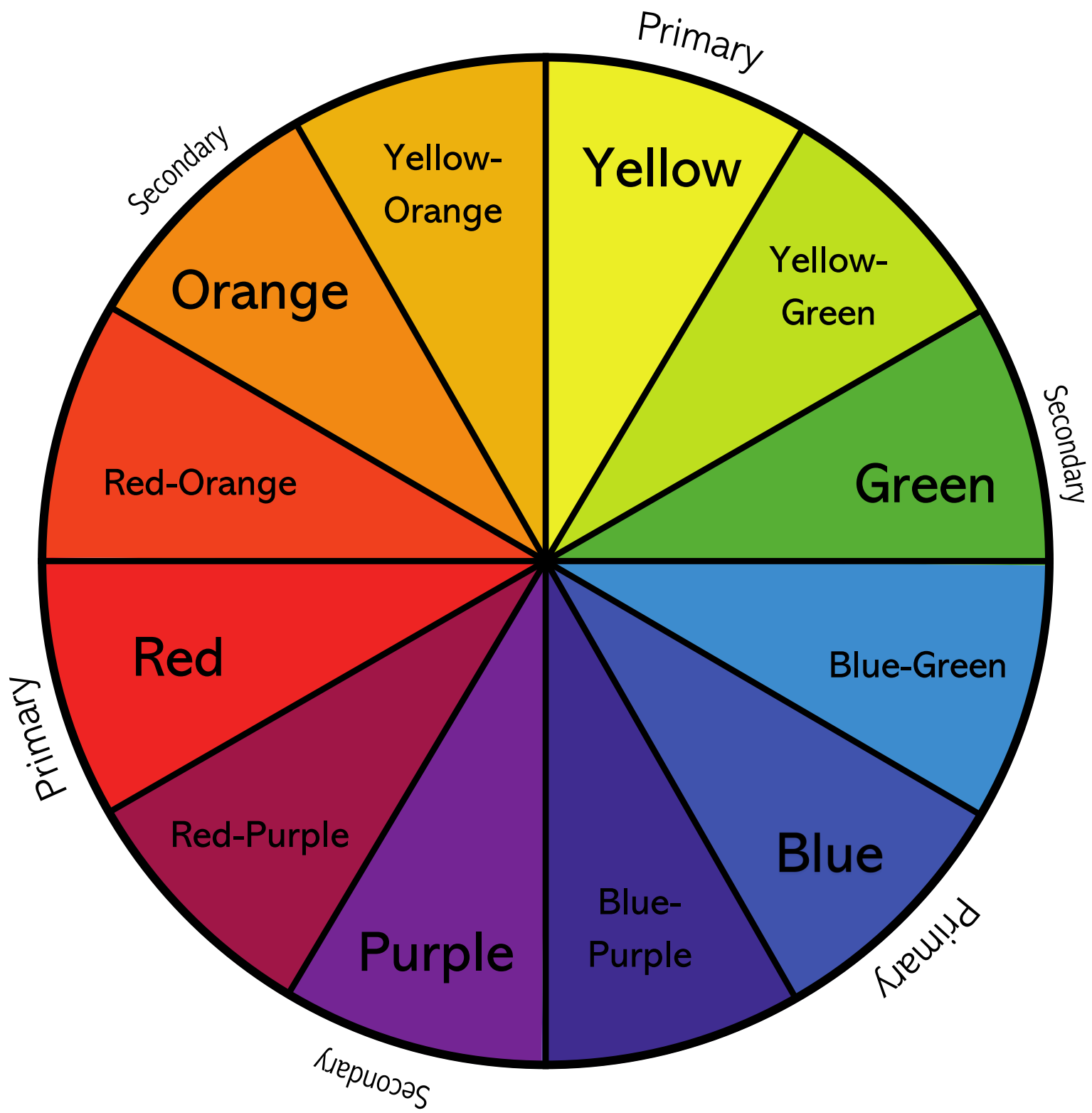


Green

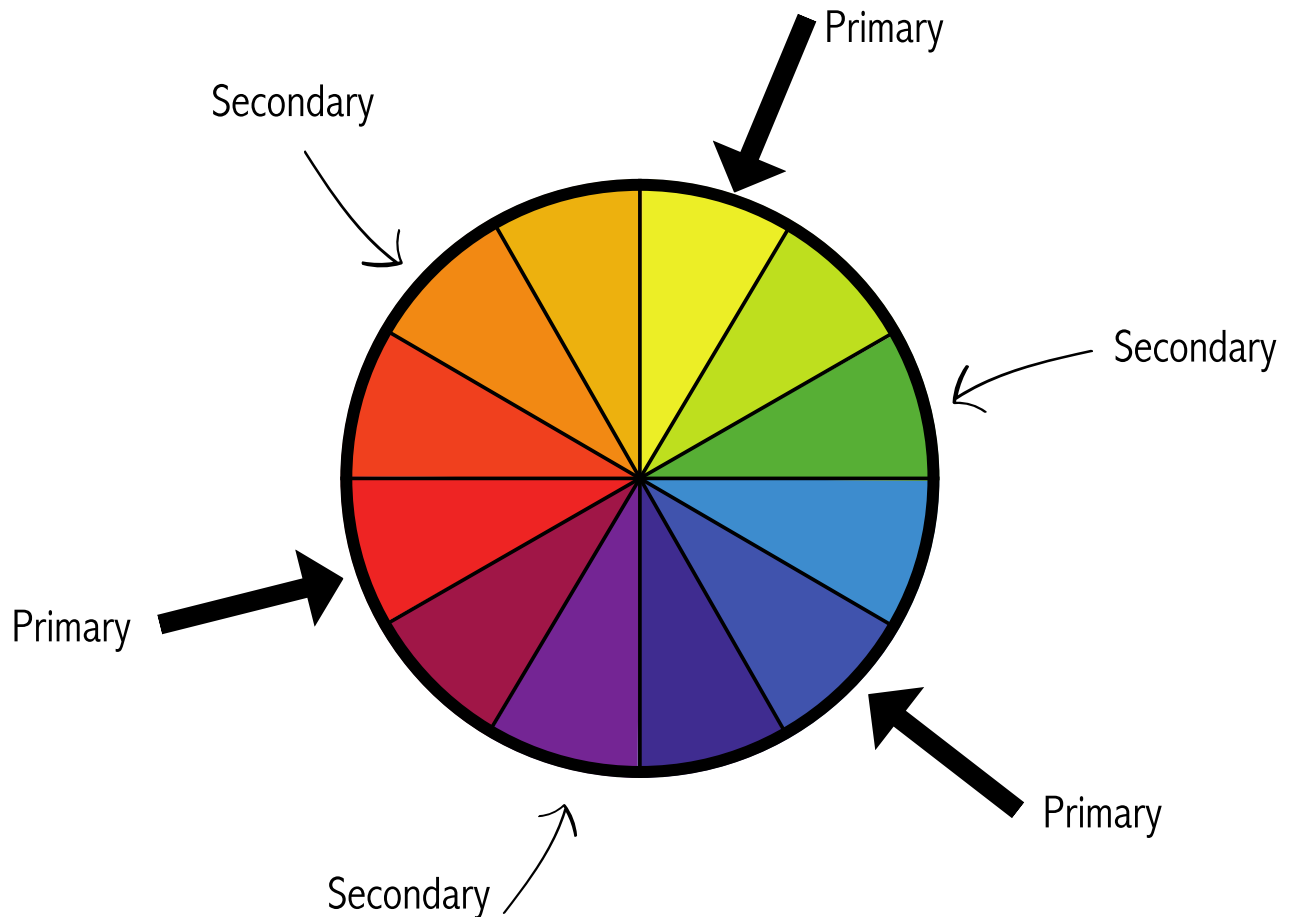


Purple

# THE COLOR WHEEL



# THE COLOR WHEEL

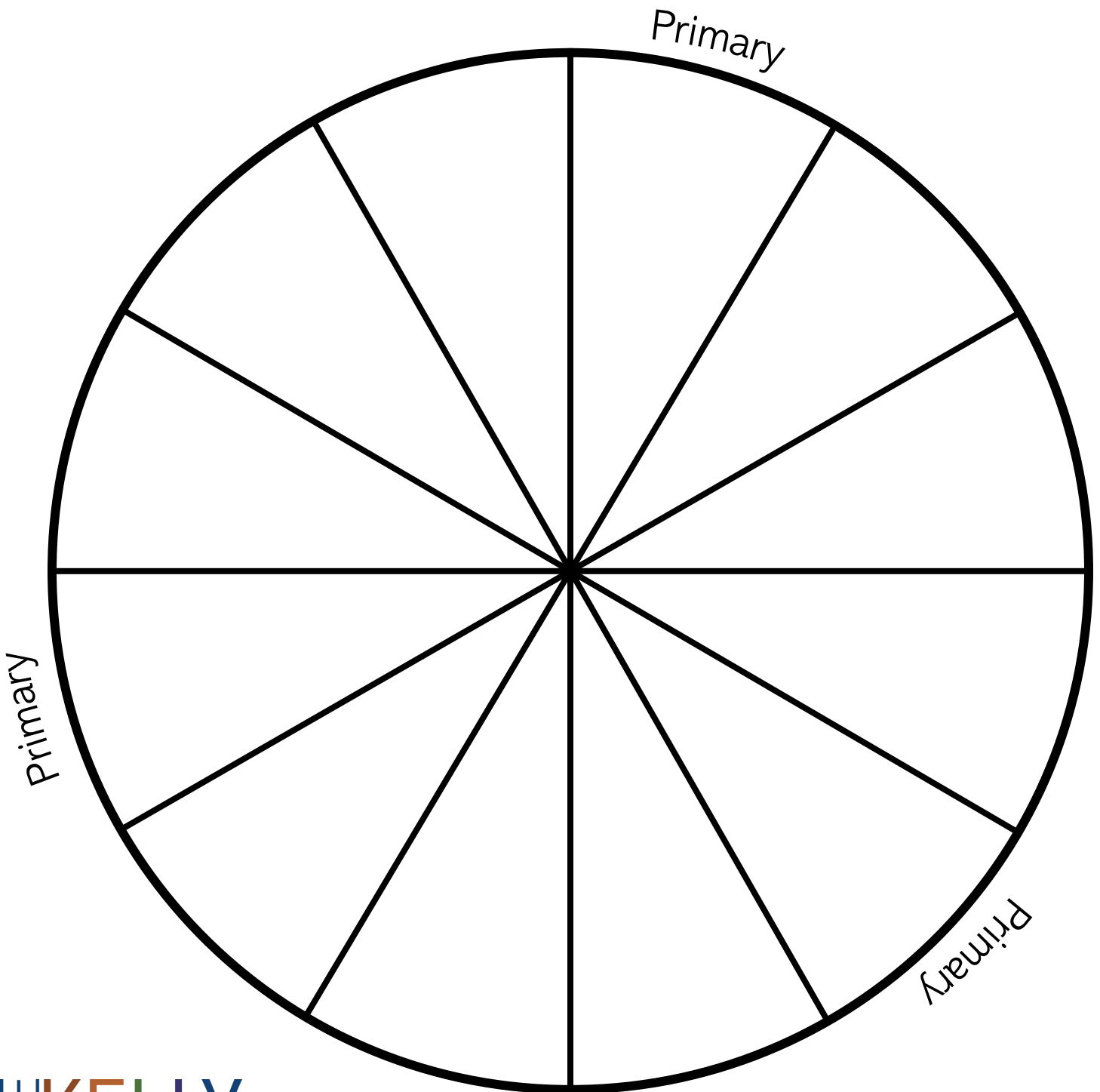


The color wheel is a tool artists use. We'll show you how it works!

See how the color wheel has the primary colors? Do you also see the secondary colors in-between the primary colors? The wheel shows you what colors you can make by mixing nearby colors together.

So if you add yellow and red, you can make orange, right? But if you add more red than you do yellow, you can make red-orange! Same thing works for the other colors. If you mix blue and yellow, but you add more blue than you do yellow, you can make blue-green (it's also called cyan)!

# MAKE YOUR OWN COLOR WHEEL

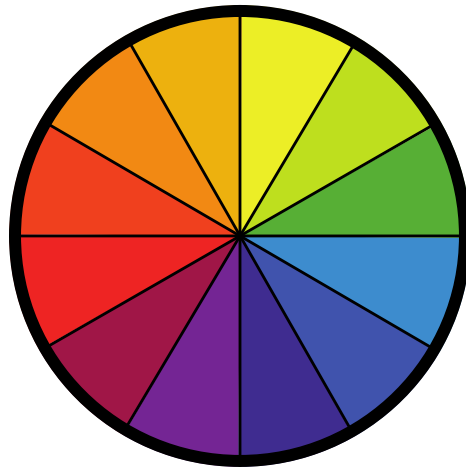




# COLOR THEORY

## WHAT IS COLOR THEORY?

Color Theory looks at how colors work together and how we perceive them. This is where a color wheel comes in handy!



Did you know the color wheel can also show you what colors look good together? This is important when you're painting or drawing!

## Color Combinations

Some of the best color combinations for art are:

Complementary Colors

Analogous Colors

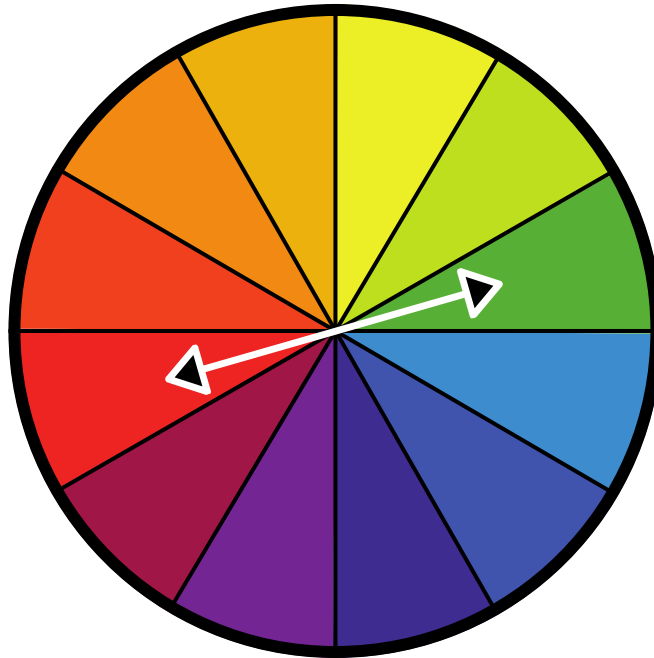
Triadic Colors

Tetradic Colors

Monochromatic Colors

# COLOR COMBINATIONS

## Complimentary Colors

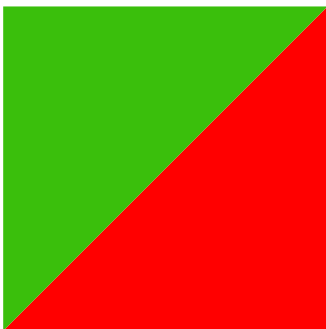


Complimentary colors are opposite each other on the color wheel.

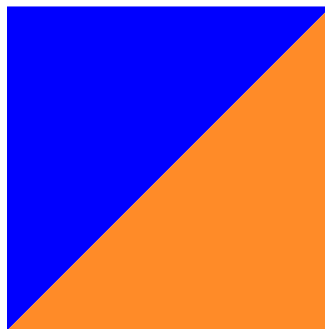
These colors contrast, so they can look great together!

### EXAMPLES

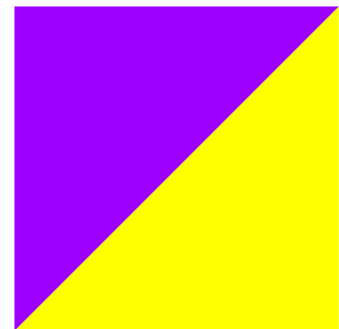
Green & Red



Blue & Orange

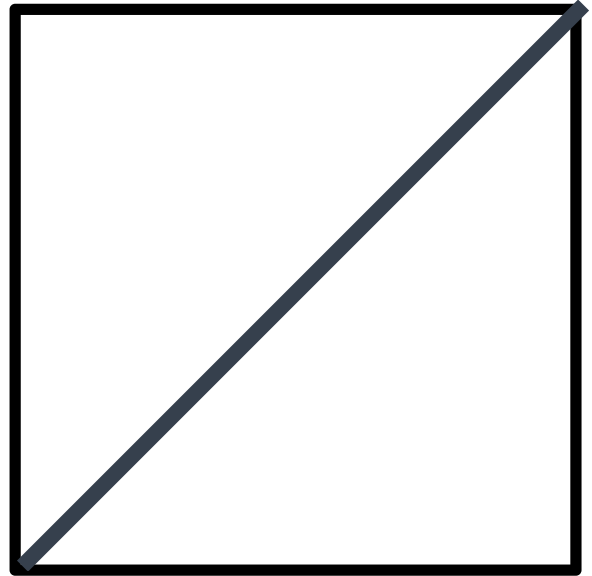
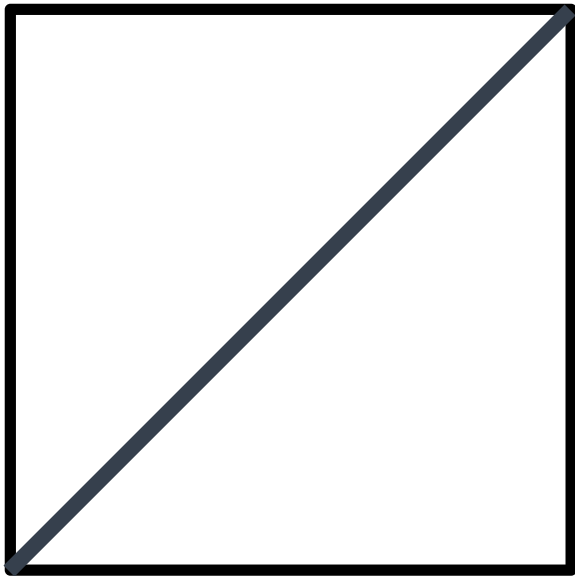


Purple & Yellow

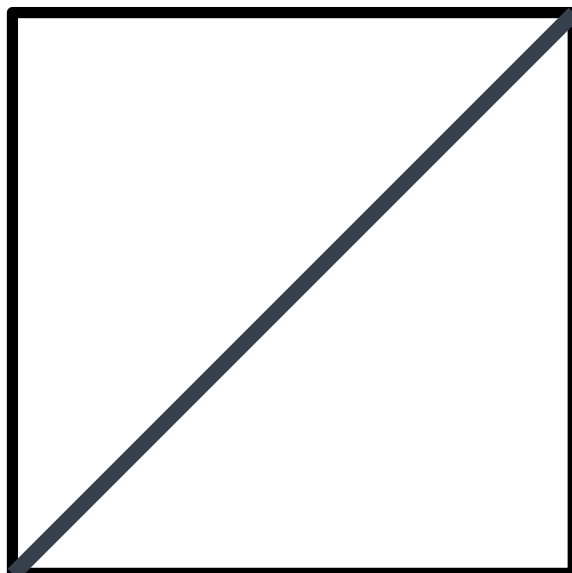


# COLOR COMBINATIONS

## Complimentary Colors Exercise

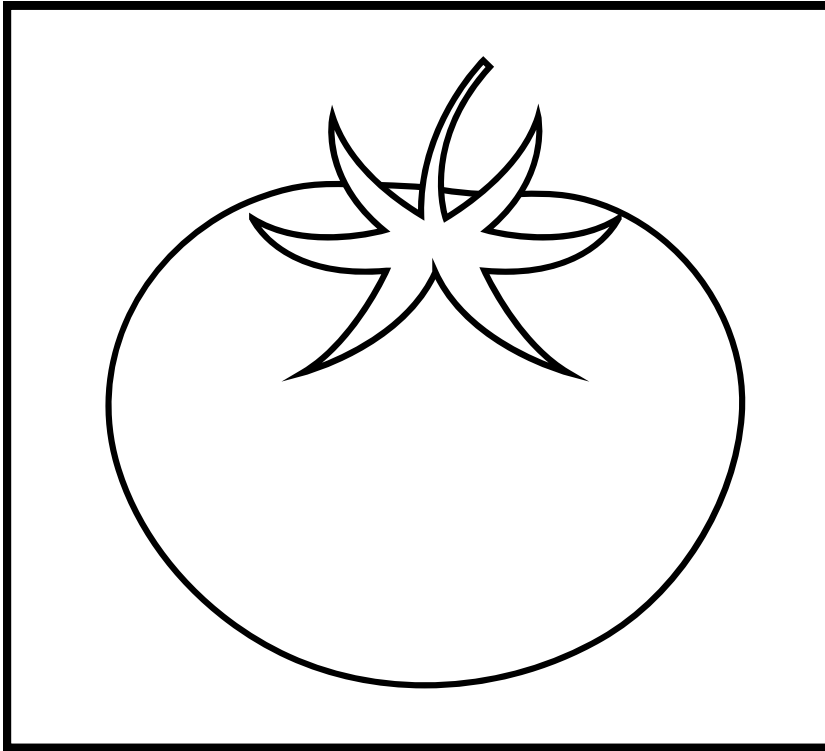


Complimentary colors appear opposite each other on the color wheel. Try it yourself!



# COLOR COMBINATIONS

## Complimentary Colors Practice



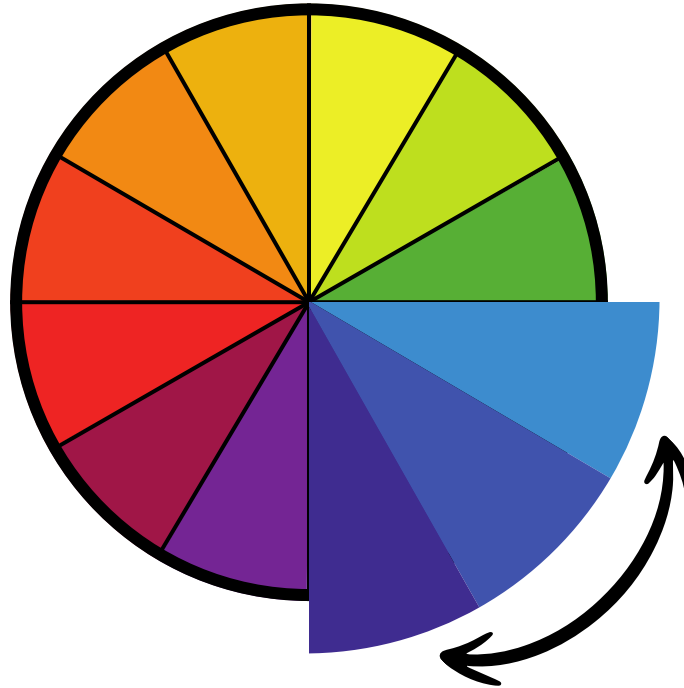
Use complimentary colors to color this tomato.

Use complimentary colors to color this cupcake.



# COLOR COMBINATIONS

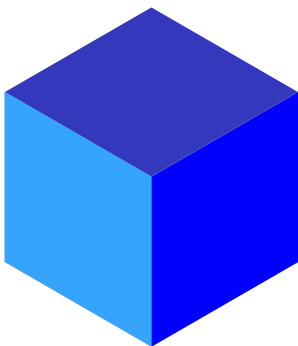
## Analogous Colors



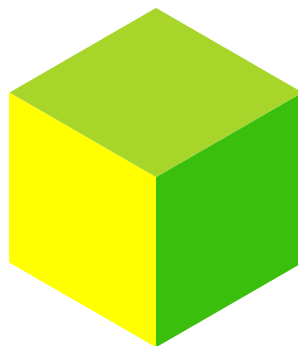
Analogous colors are next to each other on the color wheel.

These colors look like they belong together, because they do!

### EXAMPLES



Blue-Purple, Blue & Blue-Green



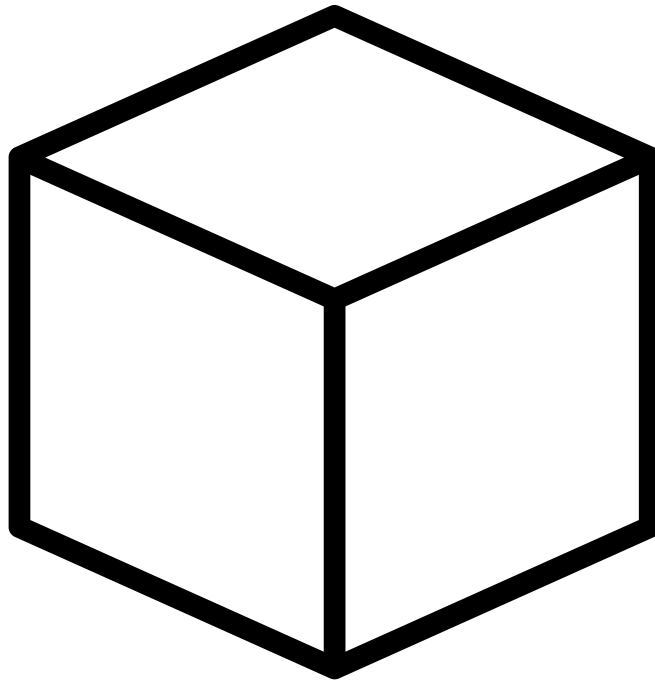
Green, Yellow-Green & Yellow



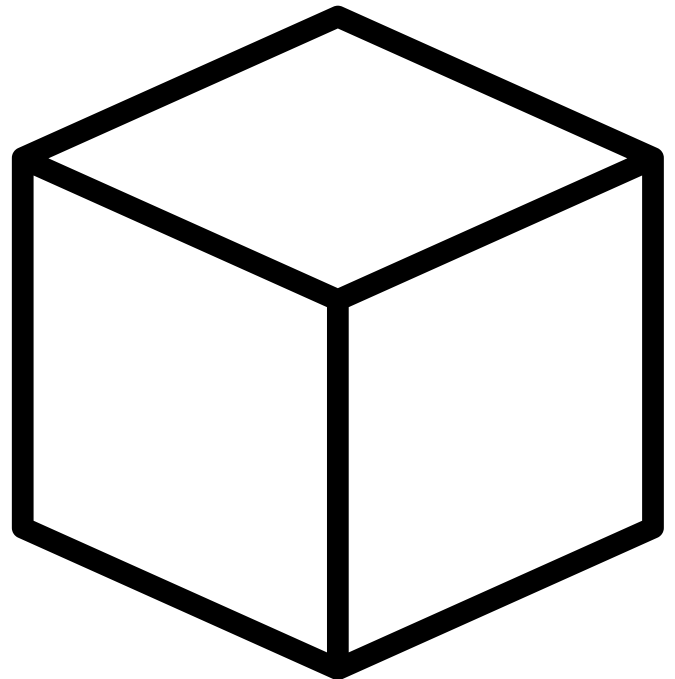
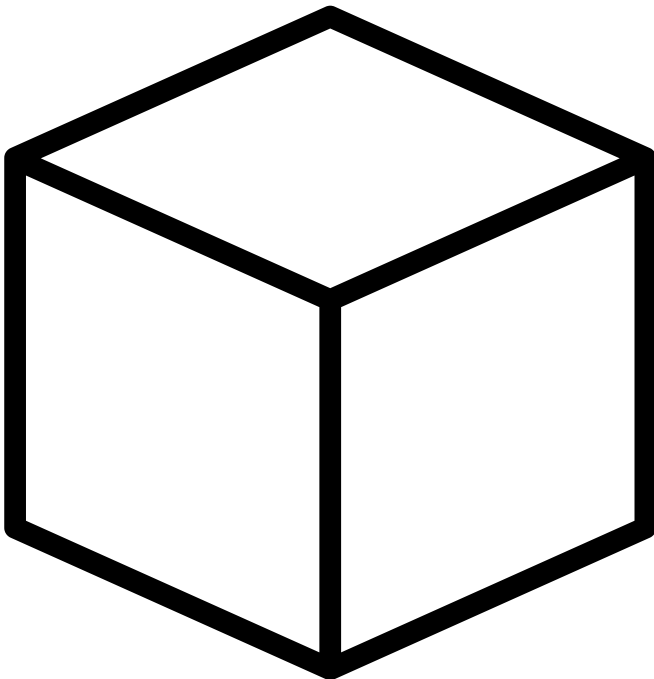
Red, Red-Orange & Orange

# COLOR COMBINATIONS

## Analogous Colors Exercise



Analogous colors are next to each other on the color wheel. Try a few different combos!



# COLOR COMBINATIONS

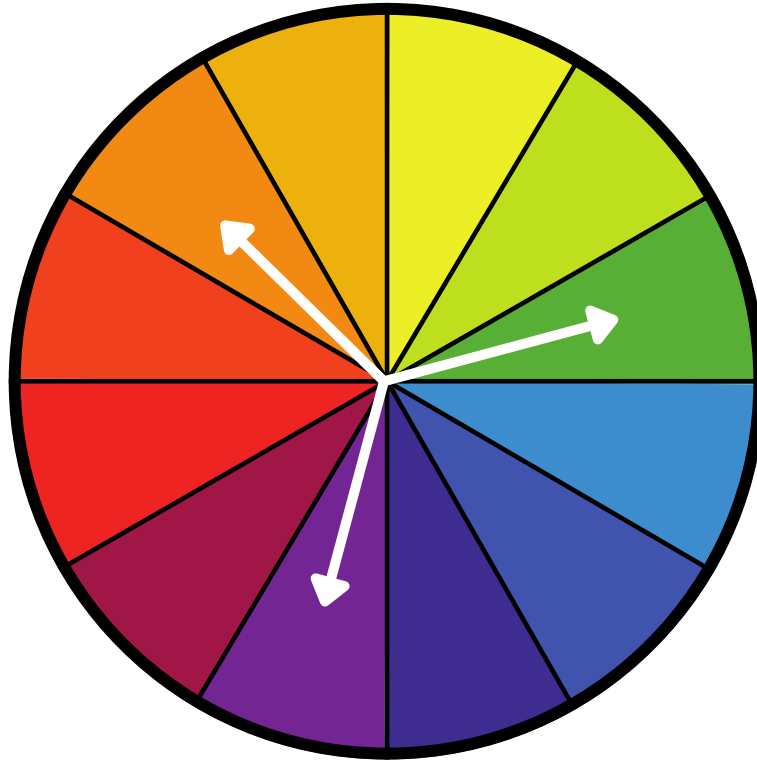
## Analogous Colors Practice



Pick an analogous color combination that you liked. Now use those three colors to color this gift!

# COLOR COMBINATIONS

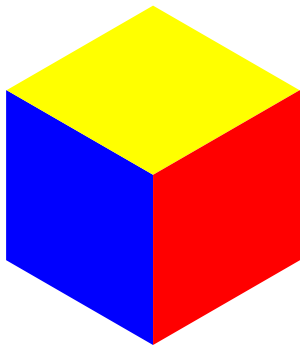
## Triadic Colors



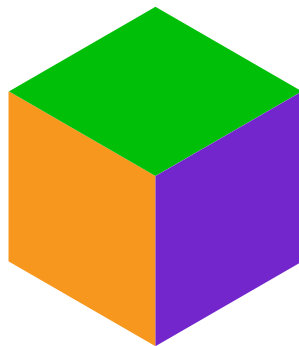
Triadic colors are three colors that are evenly spaced on the color wheel.

These colors are bold, contrasting, and bright!

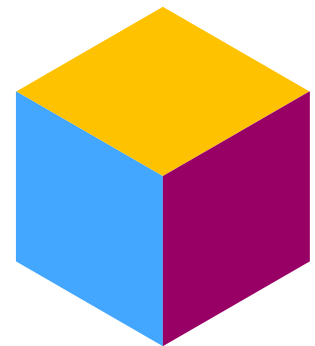
### EXAMPLES



Blue, Yellow, & Red  
(The Primary Colors!)



Purple, Green & Orange  
(Like The Joker!)

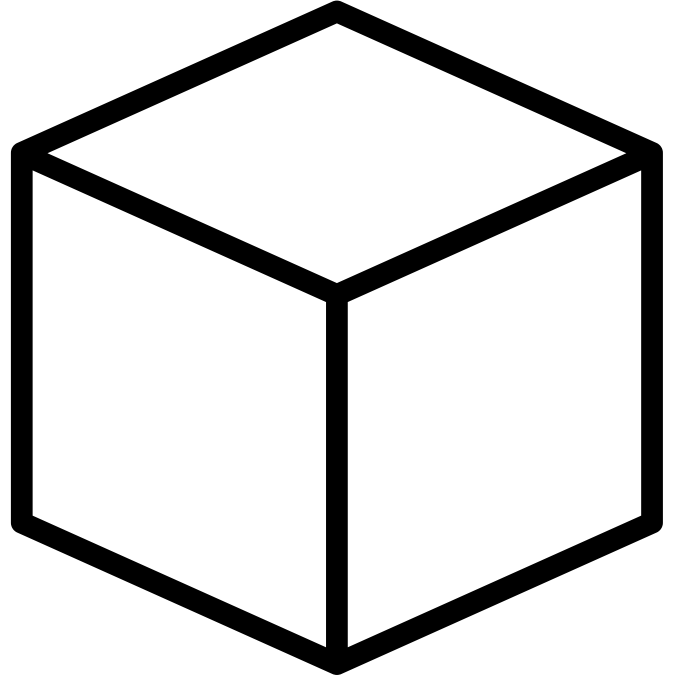
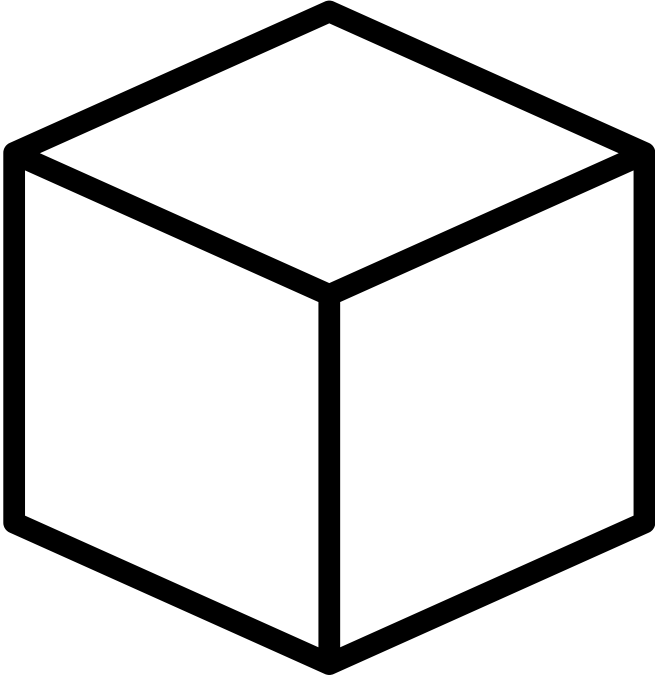


Blue-Green, Red-Purple  
& Yellow-Orange

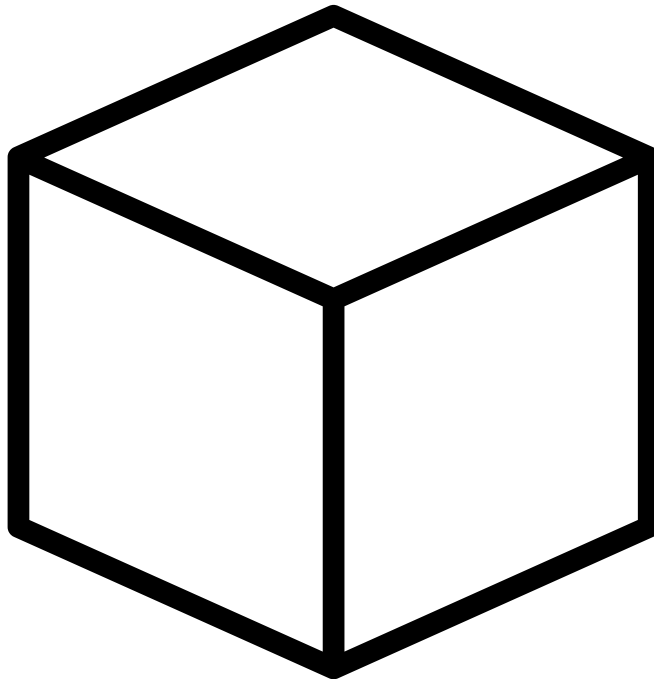


# COLOR COMBINATIONS

## Triadic Colors Exercise

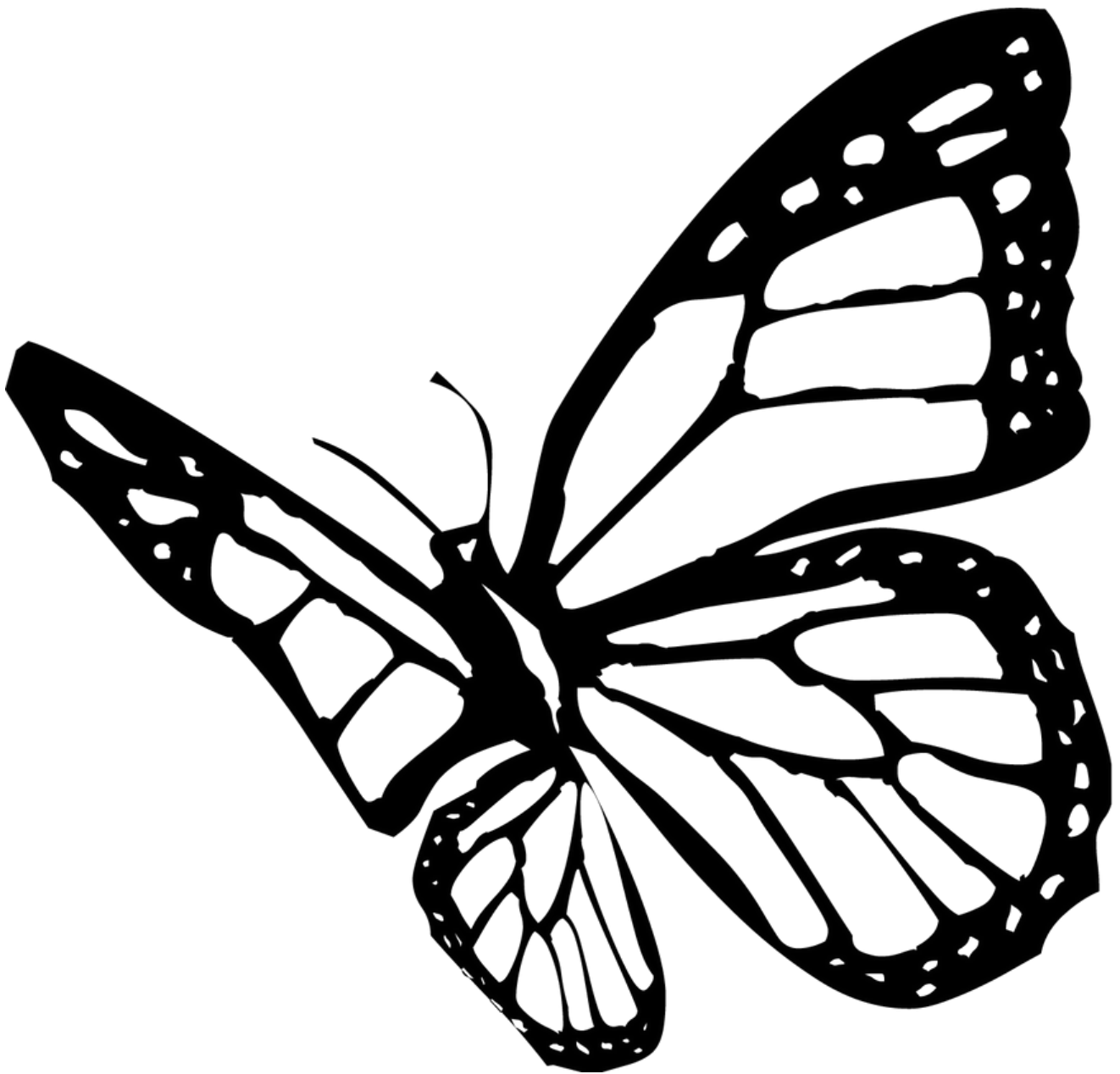


Triadic colors are three colors that are evenly spaced on the color wheel. Try a few!



# COLOR COMBINATIONS

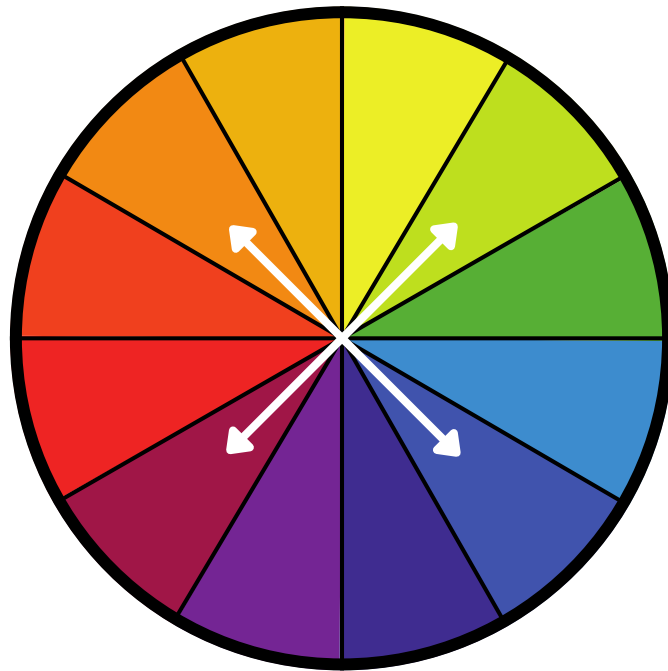
## Triadic Colors Practice



Pick a triadic color combination that you liked. Now use those three colors to color this butterfly!

# COLOR COMBINATIONS

## Tetradic Colors



Tetradic colors are four evenly spaced colors on the wheel. This one is a bit harder and works best if you use one color more than the other three.

### EXAMPLES



Purple, Blue-Green, Red-Orange & Yellow



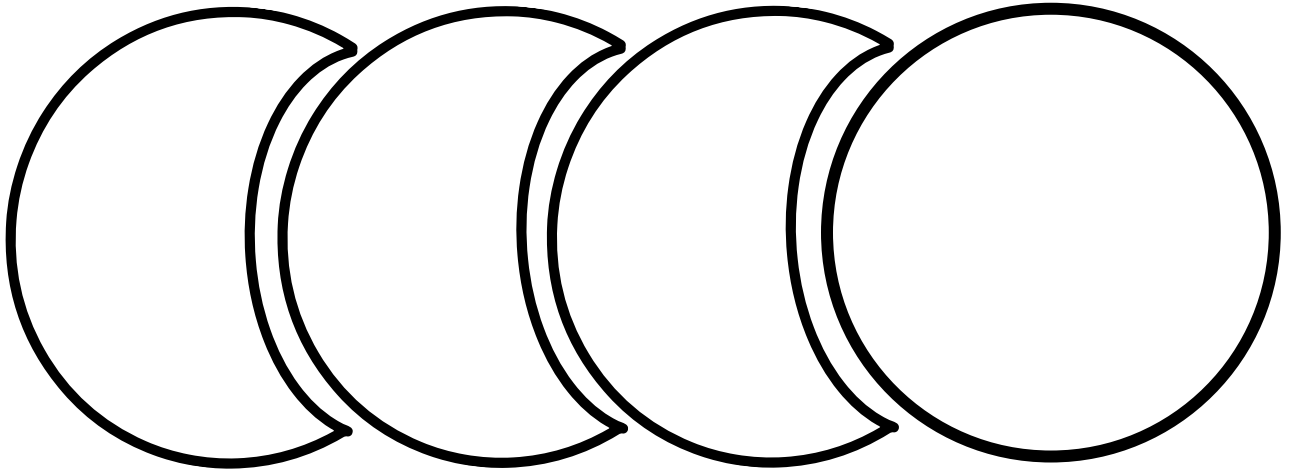
Orange, Blue, Red-Purple & Yellow-Green



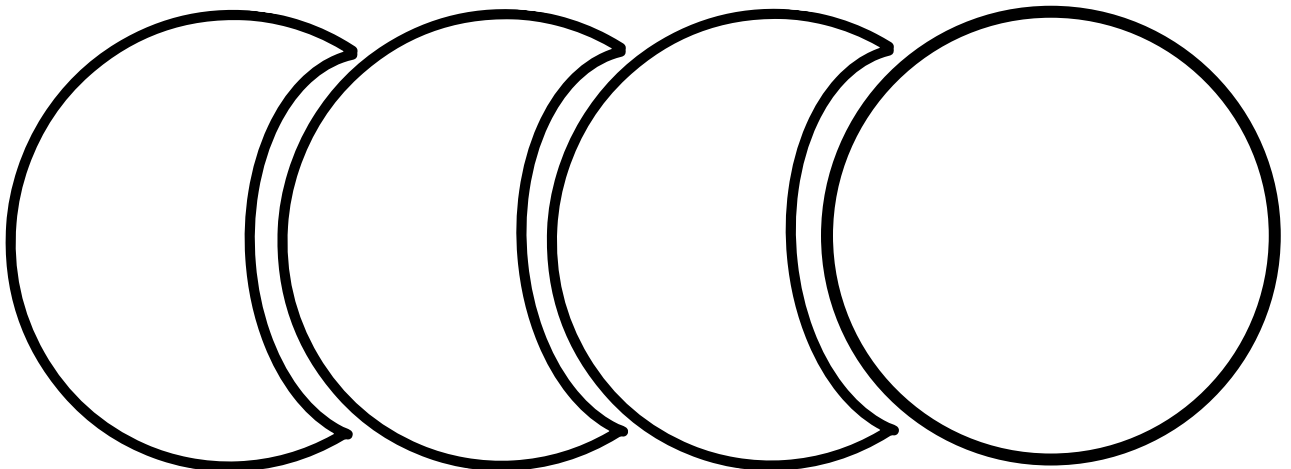
Blue-Purple, Red, Green & Yellow-Orange

# COLOR COMBINATIONS

## Tetradic Colors Exercise



Tetradic colors are four colors that are evenly spaced on the color wheel.



# COLOR COMBINATIONS

## Tetradic Colors Practice



Pick a tetradic color combination that you liked. Try picking one color to use the most.

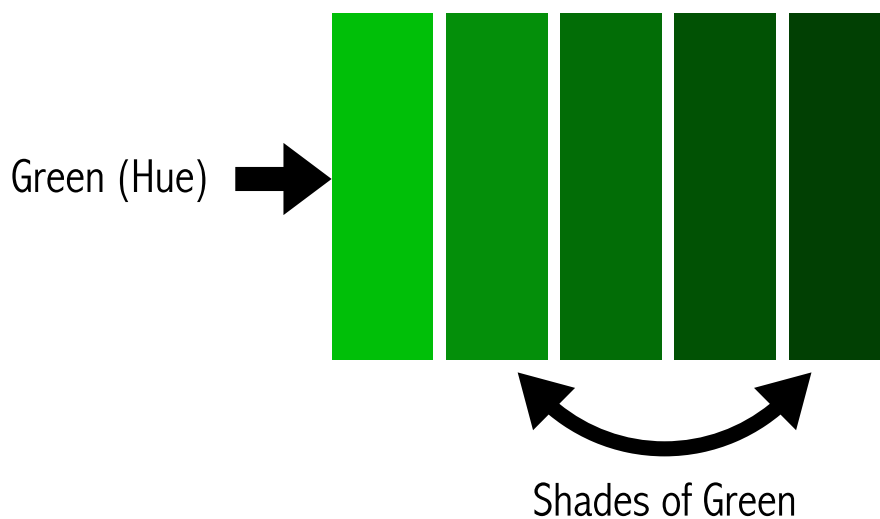
# COLOR THEORY

## Hue, Shade, and Tint

“Hue” is a word for a pure color. Hues are colors that don’t have any shade or tint to them.

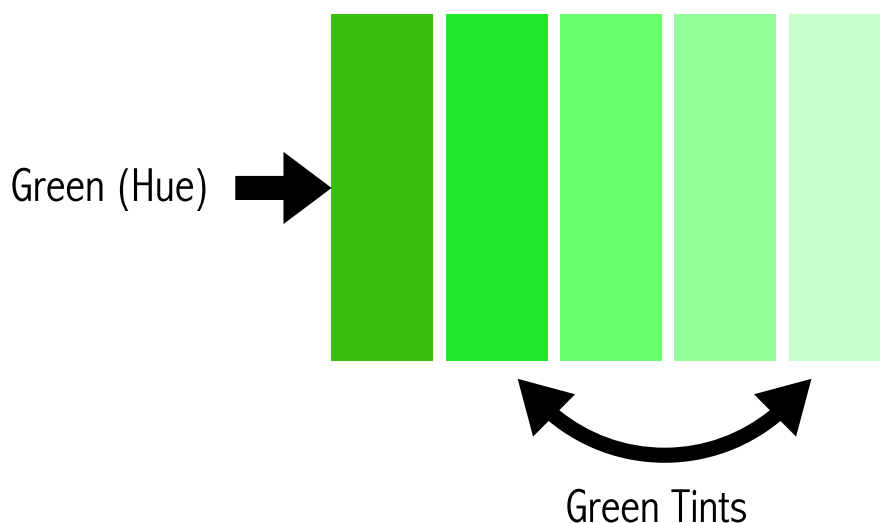
### SHADE

Shade is when you darken a color, usually by adding black.



### TINT

Tint is when you lighten a color, usually with white.



# COLOR THEORY

## Hue, Shade, and Tint Exercise

Hue			
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### SHADE

Pick a color! Now try adding a little black and filling in a shade box. Then add more black and fill in another box with the darker shade, then again for the last Shade box.

Do the same thing with white and fill the Tint boxes!

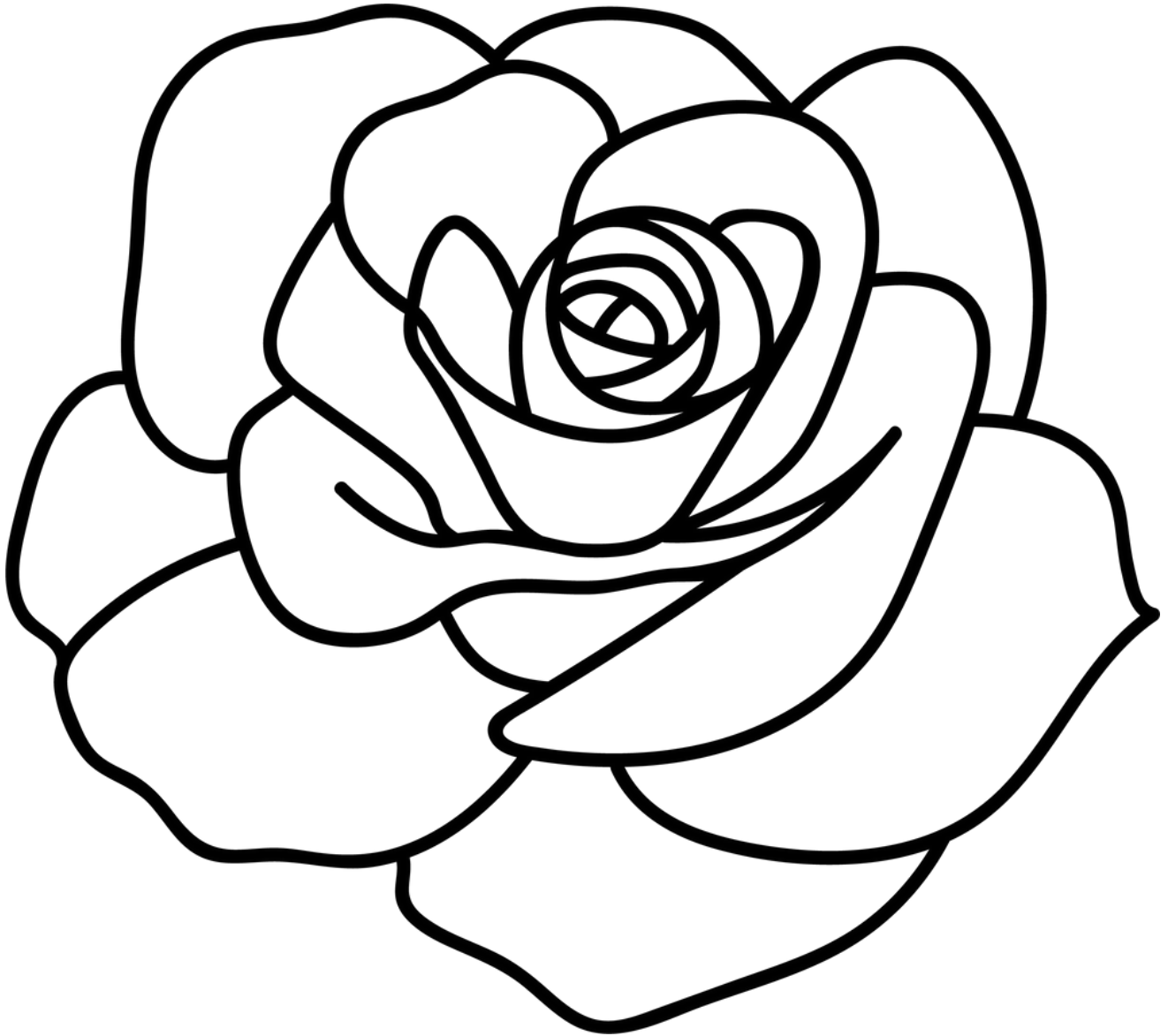
### TINT

Hue			
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# COLOR COMBINATIONS

## Tint & Shade Colors Practice

(Monochromatic)



Color this flower using only one hue!

The trick is to use different tints and shades of the same hue.

This is called a Monochromatic color combination.



# COLOR THEORY

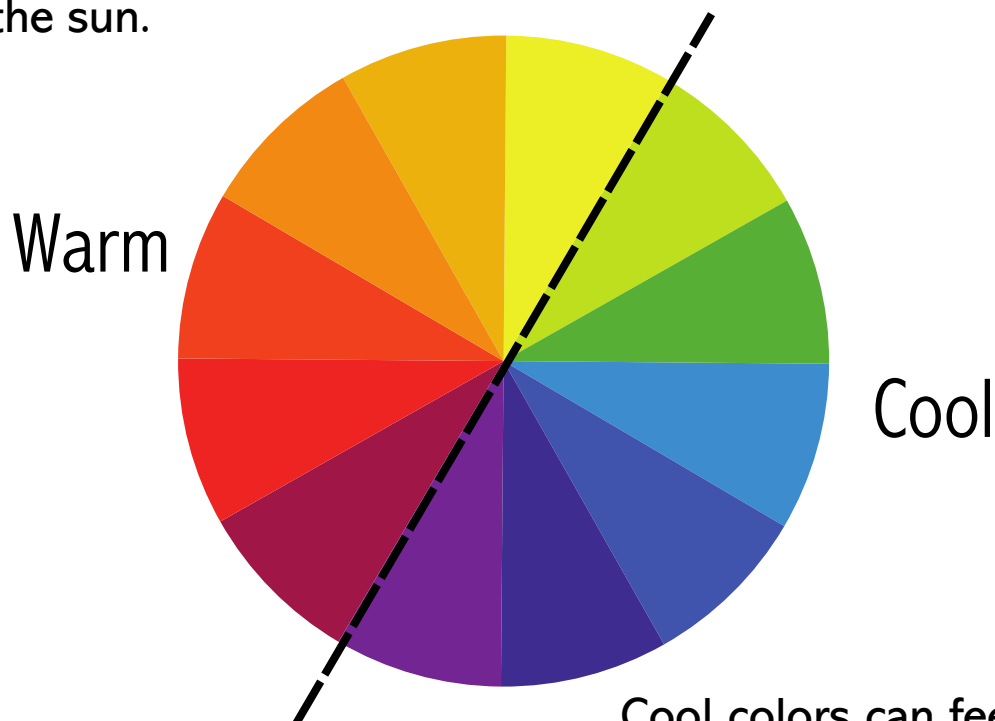
## Color Properties

There's more to colors than color combinations too. Here are some more important parts of colors.

### COLOR TEMPERATURE

Colors can help create a mood or emotion. The color wheel can also be divided into “warm” colors and “cool” colors.

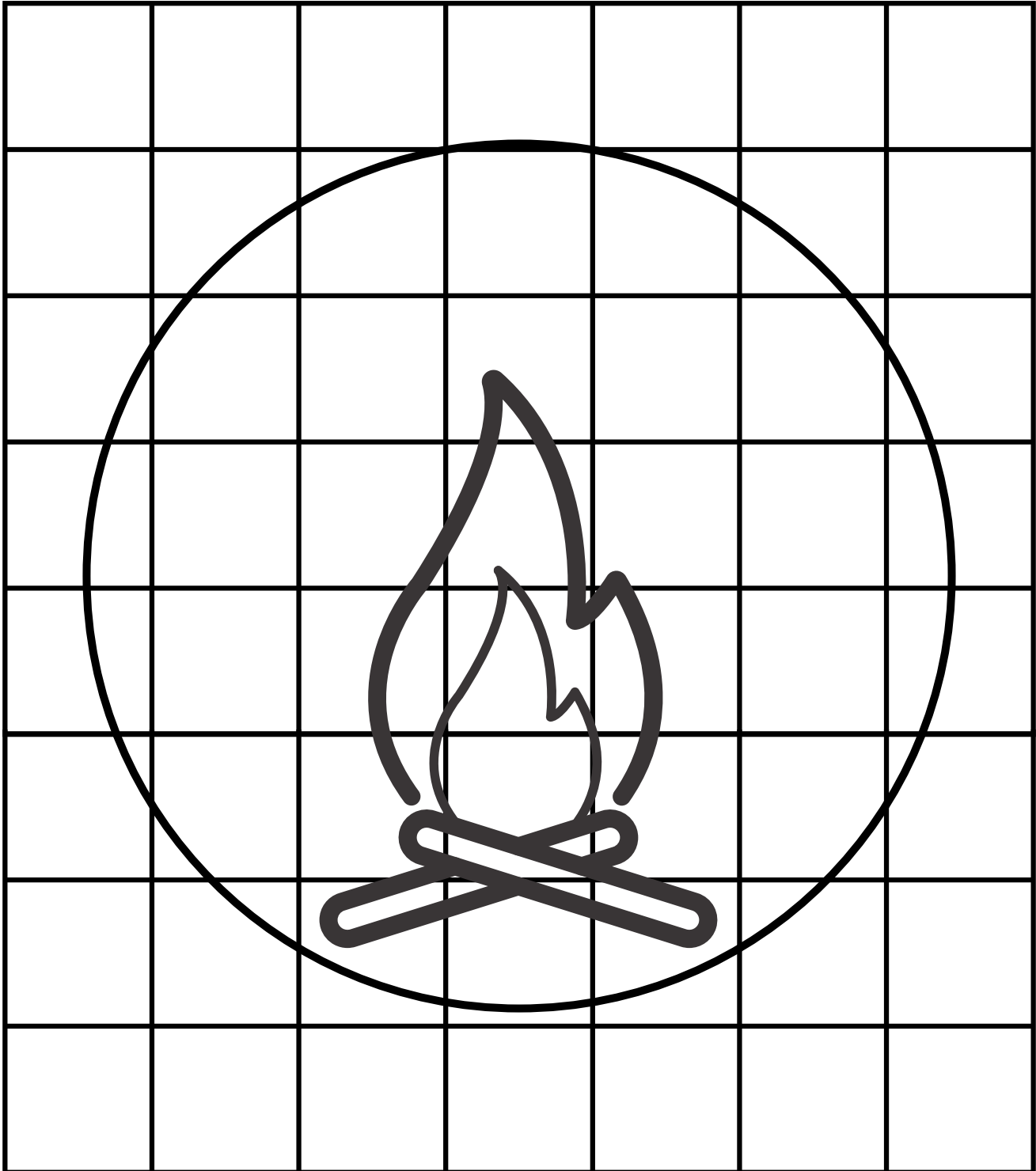
Warm colors can feel energizing and cozy. Think of the color of fire or the sun.



Cool colors can feel relaxed and peaceful. Think of the color of water or earth.

# COLOR THEORY

## Color Temperature Practice



Make the campfire warm and cozy by using warm colors in the circle and cool colors outside the circle.