

# COLOR

Colors, like lines, textures and shapes convey moods. We have age-old associations with colors that tend to transcend culture. Black is universally seen as a color of mourning because it conveys a somber and grave mood. The association is probably of the night, which must have brought our primal ancestors great fear and anxiety. Green is widely considered the color of peace and calm, as is pale blue. The association is probably of grassy meadows and blue skies. What might red be associated with? How about yellow?

## VOCABULARY

**Color:** A reaction of your brain to the reflection or absorption of light frequencies by an object.

**Hue:** The actual name of the color, i.e. Crimson, Cadmium Yellow, etc.

**Value:** The darkness of the hue, i.e. dark red vs. light red.

**Tint:** A tint is created when white is added to a color, i.e. pink from red.

**Shade:** A shade is created when black is added to a color. Be warned: adding black has a tendency to “dull” a color.

**Monochromatic scheme:** A color scheme using only one hue.

**Polychromatic scheme:** A color scheme using many hues.

**Primary Colors:** Unmixable colors-- red, yellow, blue

**Secondary Colors:** created by mixing the primary colors together in pairs –Orange, Green, Violet

**Tertiary Colors:** Colors created by mixing the secondary and primary in pairs—Red-orange, yellow-green, etc.

**Warm Colors:** Most often these are colors in the yellow to red range on the color wheel, however it is possible to speak of green or blue as warm if it has a warmer cast. Warm colors have a tendency to advance.

**Cool Colors:** Colors in the green – violet range. Cool colors tend to recede.

**Complementary Colors:** Colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel. When these colors are placed next to each other in a picture, they make a “vibrant” combination. Mixing these colors together creates grays and browns.

**Split complementary Colors:** Colors that are immediately adjacent to the “complement” of a given color. When placed near each other in a painting these three colors make a pleasant combination.

**Analogous Colors:** Colors that are near each other on the color wheel. Using any combination of analogous colors creates a pleasant and “classical” mood.

**Neutral colors:** Black and White and mixtures of the two.

**Color Wheel:** The Color Wheel was developed by Sir Isaac Newton in 1666. It is a circle of 12 colors arranged in a sequence of pure colors. It includes primary, secondary and tertiary colors. It may also include mixtures of browns. Using a color wheel one can easily see the relationships of certain colors. A color wheel is useful in creating color harmonies and dissonances.

**Complete and label the color wheel below by filling all the blanks. When you are finished, answer all the questions.**

1. The primary colors are \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The secondary colors are \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The primary colors **CANNOT** be \_\_\_\_\_ from any other color.
4. When you mix two primary colors together, you'll make a \_\_\_\_\_ color.
5. When colors are located opposite each other on the color wheel they are called \_\_\_\_\_ colors.
6. When a color has a warm quality to it is called a \_\_\_\_\_ color.
7. When a color has a bluish hue it is called a \_\_\_\_\_ color.
8. When a primary color is mixed with its complement the result is \_\_\_\_\_.
9. When a secondary color is mixed with a primary color, the result is \_\_\_\_\_.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ is mixed from red and blue.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ is mixed from red and yellow.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ is mixed from green and yellow.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ is mixed from Green and red.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ is the complement of yellow.
15. The split complements of red are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Fill the following boxes with 5 analogous colors.

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17. Fill the following boxes with complementary color combinations for all the primary colors, i.e. red and green next to each other.

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18. Fill the following boxes with a split complement scheme.

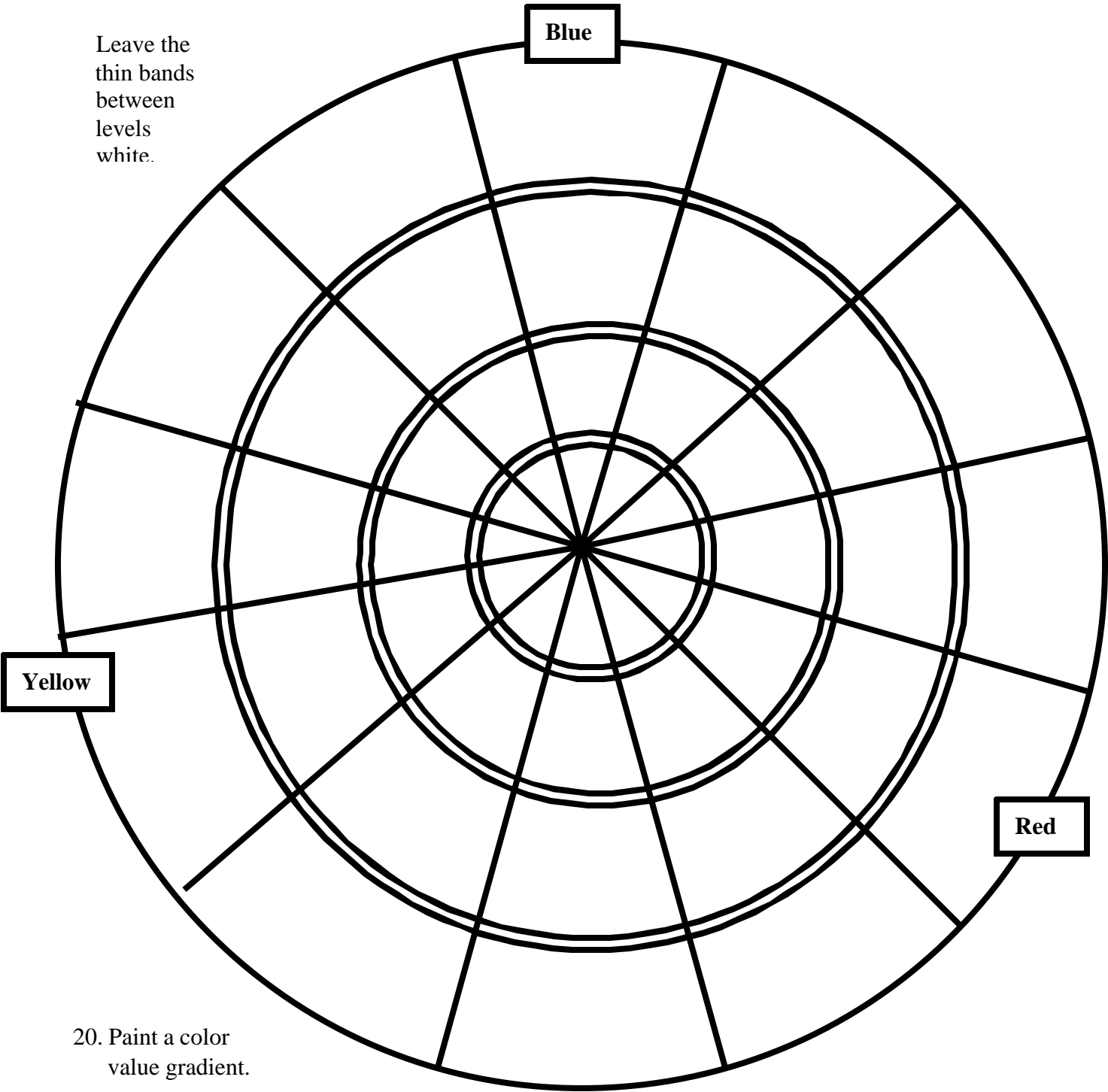
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19. Using a small paintbrush and only three tempera colors (the primaries) complete this color wheel.

**THE COLOR WHEEL**

**The second and third level towards the center are tints and shades.**

Leave the thin bands between levels white.



20. Paint a color value gradient.

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