Contrast and Complement

A colour wheel is a diagram that organises colour hues around a circle. The colour wheel helps us to see the relationships between colours.

Tertiary colours

A tertiary colour is made by mixing equal amounts of a primary colour and a secondary colour. On the colour wheel, they sit between the primary and secondary colours from which they are made.



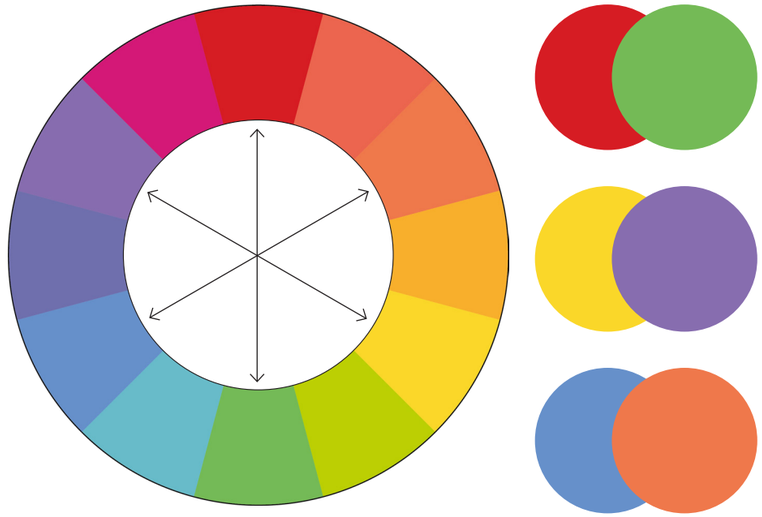
There are six tertiary colours.

- red-orange, made by mixing red and orange
- red-purple, made by mixing red and purple
- blue-purple, made by mixing blue and purple
- blue-green, made by mixing blue and green
- yellow-green, made by mixing yellow and green
- yellow-orange, made by mixing yellow and orange

When we say or write the tertiary colour names, we start with the primary colour first and the secondary colour second.

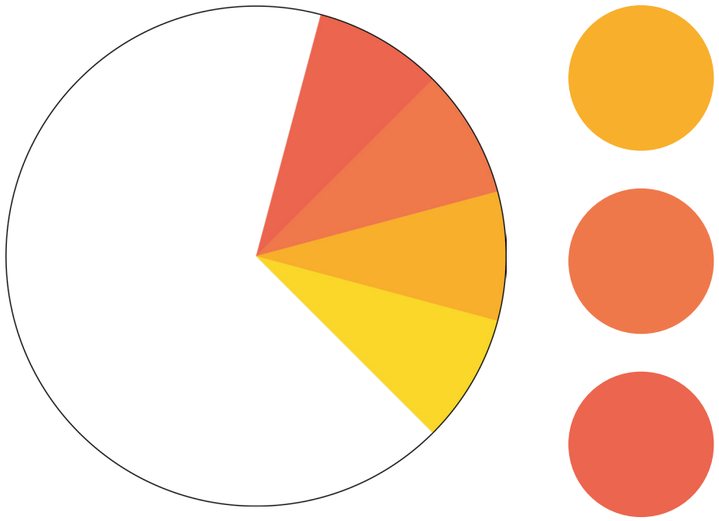
Complementary colours

Complementary colours are on opposite sides of the colour wheel. When used together in a painting, they give the greatest contrast. They include red and green, yellow and purple and blue and orange.



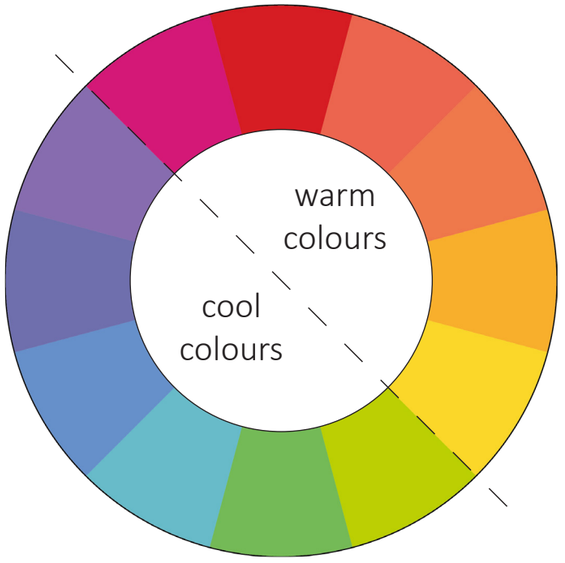
Analogous colours

Analogous colours sit next to each other on the colour wheel. Using analogous colours together creates a harmonious effect.



Warm and cool colours

The colour wheel can be divided into warm and cool colours. Warm colours can symbolise the sun or fire. Cool colours can symbolise ice, water or sky.



Glossary

analogous	To be similar to something else.
complementary	Something that enhances something else.
harmonious	Working well together.
hue	A version of a colour.
primary colour	A colour that cannot be made by mixing other colours.
secondary colour	A colour that is made by mixing equal amounts of two primary colours.
tertiary colour	A colour that is made by mixing equal amounts of a primary and secondary colour.

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