

The Colour Wheel

A colour theory reference chart to colour, label and keep.



NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

LEARNING GOAL

Learn how colours are made, mixed and paired.

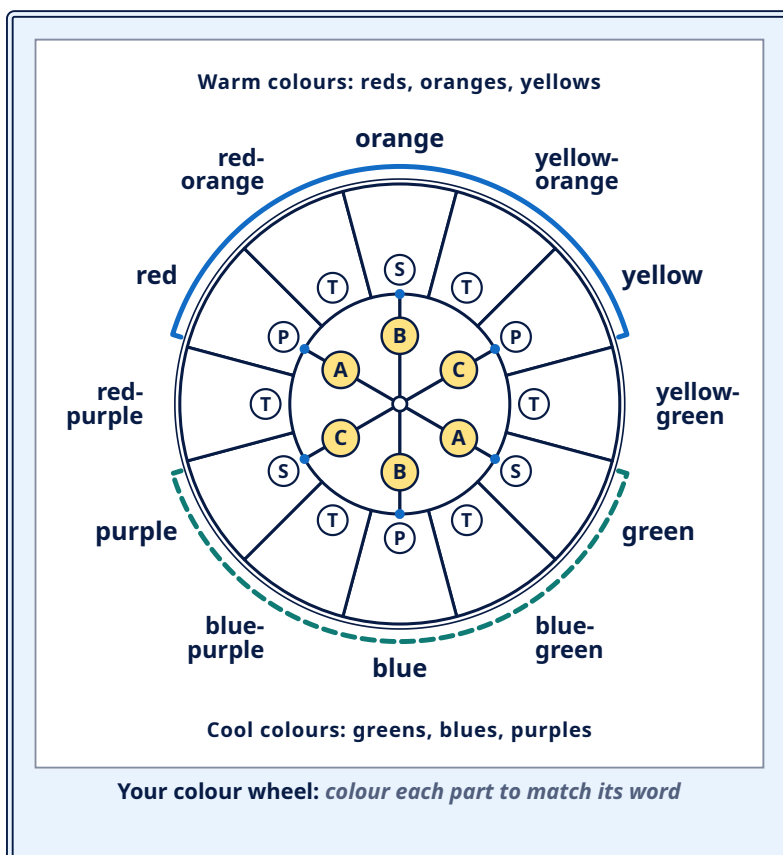
SUCCESS CRITERIA

- ☐ I can name primary, secondary and tertiary colours.
- ☐ I can find complementary pairs on the wheel.
- ☐ I can make a tint, a shade and a tone.

1 Colour the wheel

Gallery 1

3 marks



How: colour every **P** part first. Then mix the **S** parts, then the **T** parts. Keep the letters and words clear.

KEY

P PRIMARY

Red, yellow, blue. You cannot mix them from other colours.

S SECONDARY

Two primaries mixed: orange, green, purple.

T TERTIARY

A primary mixed with the secondary next to it.

COMPLEMENTARY PAIRS

Opposite colours on the wheel. Side by side, they make each other look brighter.

- A** red and green
- B** orange and blue
- C** yellow and purple

WARM AND COOL

Warm (solid line, top): reds, oranges, yellows. **Cool** (dashed line, bottom): greens, blues, purples. Yellow-green and red-purple sit on the border.

2 Read your wheel

Gallery 2

4 marks

- a Which colour is opposite orange? _____
- b Which two primaries make green? _____
- c Which two colours make blue-purple? _____
- d Which colour is opposite red-purple? _____



Tints, shades and mixing

3 Tint, shade and tone

Studio

3 marks

Colour box 1 with one pure colour. Add a little more white, black or grey for each box.

1 TINT: ADD WHITE

Each box gets lighter.

1 pure	2	3	4	5 lightest

2 SHADE: ADD BLACK

Each box gets darker.

1 pure	2	3	4	5 darkest

3 TONE: ADD GREY

Each box gets duller and softer.

1 pure	2	3	4	5 dullest

4 Mixing experiments

Studio

4 marks

Predict first. Then mix equal amounts and colour the result. No. 4 is a complementary pair.

	MIX THESE		I PREDICT	RESULT	MY NAME FOR IT
No. 1	red yellow	+			
No. 2	yellow blue	+			
No. 3	blue red	+			
No. 4	orange blue	+			

5 Colour in art

Gallery 3

4 marks

a An artist paints a cold, calm winter evening. Which half of the wheel would you choose from, and why?

b Where could an artist put a complementary pair to make one thing stand out? Explain.



GO FURTHER

Make a small picture with one colour only, using its tints, shades and tones.