

Colour Theory



Aim

- I can explain colour theory and why it is important to artists.

Success Criteria

- I can recall primary, secondary and tertiary colours.
- I can explain what complementary and analogous colours are.
- I can explain why colour harmony is important to artists.

Colours

Our world is made up of colours which influence the way we feel and react to things.

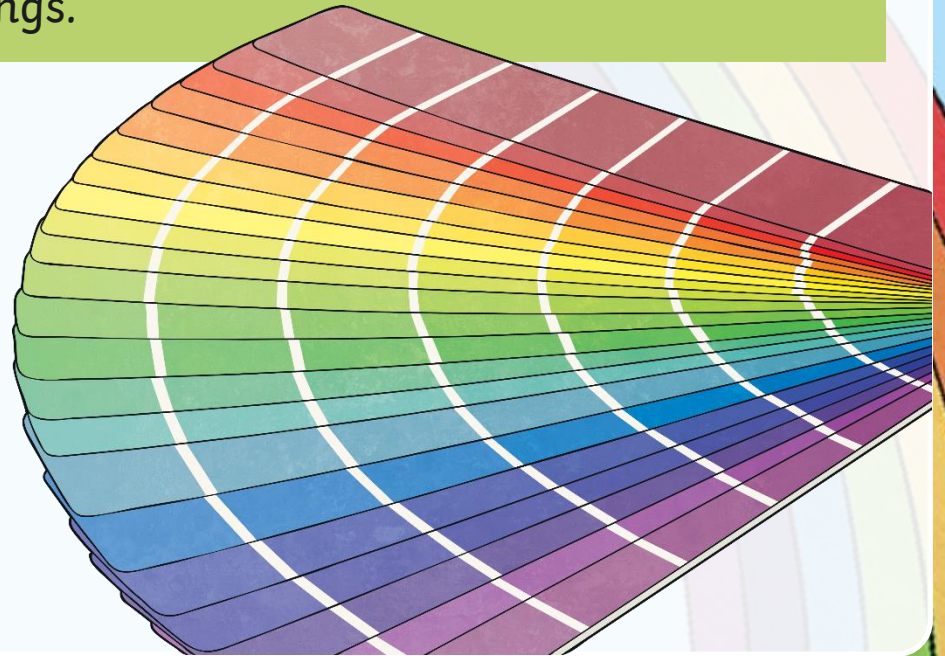
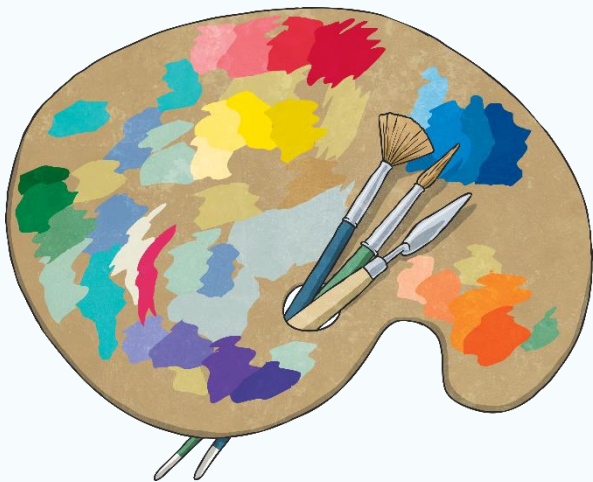


Colour Theory

Colour theory is the foundation of art.

Colour theory is a way of organising colours and how they work together.

Knowing about colours and their relationships helps artists to create their works. Artists can use these relationships to create balance, chaos, contrast and to evoke certain feelings.



The Colour Wheel

The colour wheel is a logical way of organising colours. Each colour has a designated place on the wheel and has a relationship with the colours on either side and the colour opposite. It was first developed by Sir Isaac Newton in 1666.

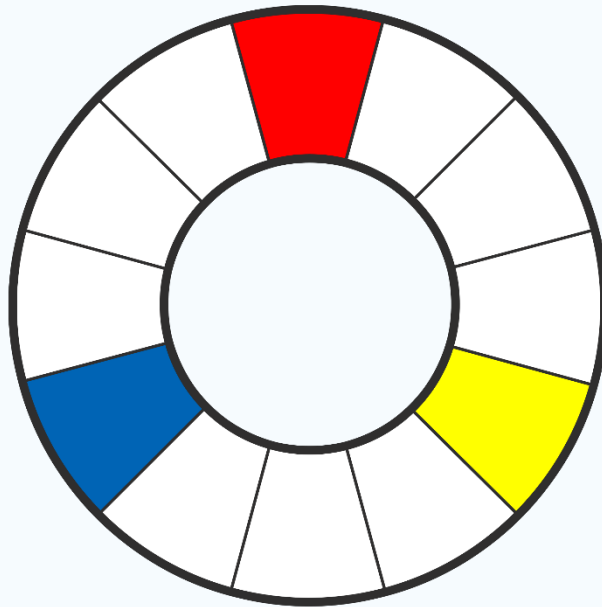


Primary Colours

Red, blue and yellow are known as **primary colours**.

These colours cannot be mixed or made by mixing other colours.

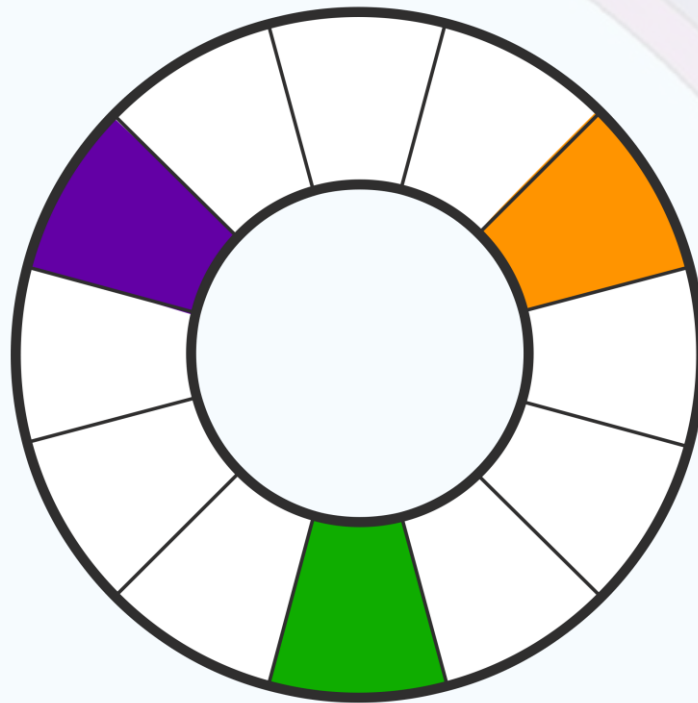
All other colours are derived from the primary colours.



Secondary Colours

The secondary colours are green, orange and purple.

They are made by mixing primary colours.



Tertiary Colours

Yellow-orange, red-orange, red-purple, blue-purple, blue-green and yellow-green are tertiary colours.

Tertiary colours are made by mixing a primary colour and a secondary colour.

Because a tertiary colour is made through mixing a primary and a secondary colour, the colour has a two-part name to indicate the two colours that have been combined.

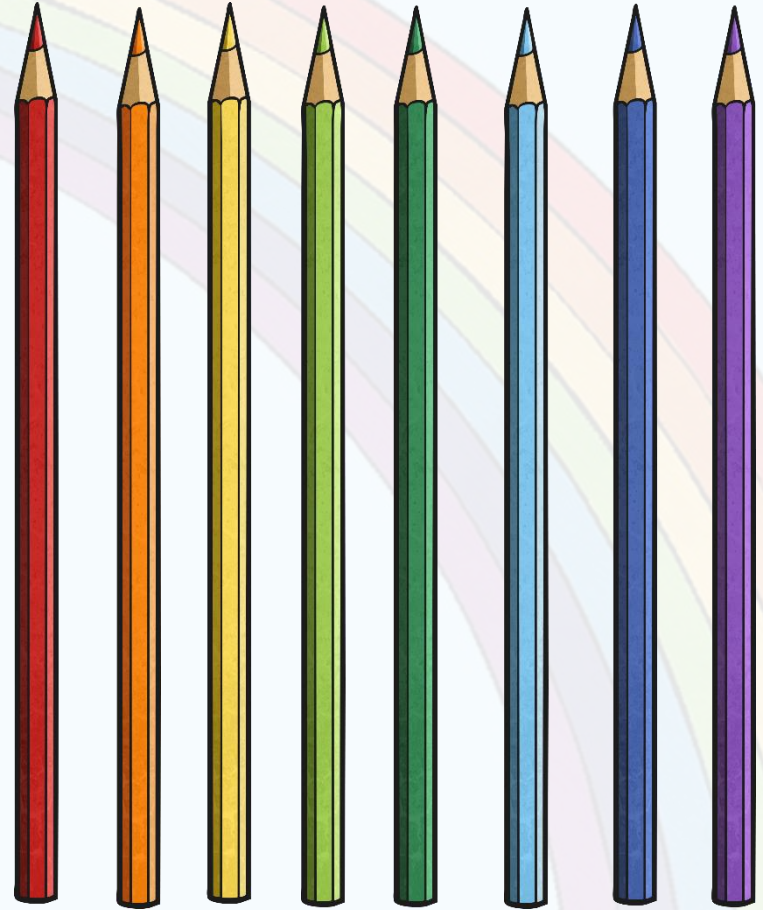


Colour Harmony

Colour harmony is when two colours are combined in a way that makes them pleasing to the eye.

When colours are used in harmony, they can bring balance to a piece of art and they can make the finished work appear more interesting to the viewer.

When colours are not used in harmony, the finished work could be perceived as either uninteresting or chaotic, depending on what has been produced.



Analogue Colours

Analogue colours are any three colours that are next to each other on the 12-part colour wheel. Analogue colours create harmony when used together.

Usually when analogue colours are used, one colour is more dominant than the other two.

Blue-purple, blue and blue-green are analogue colours.

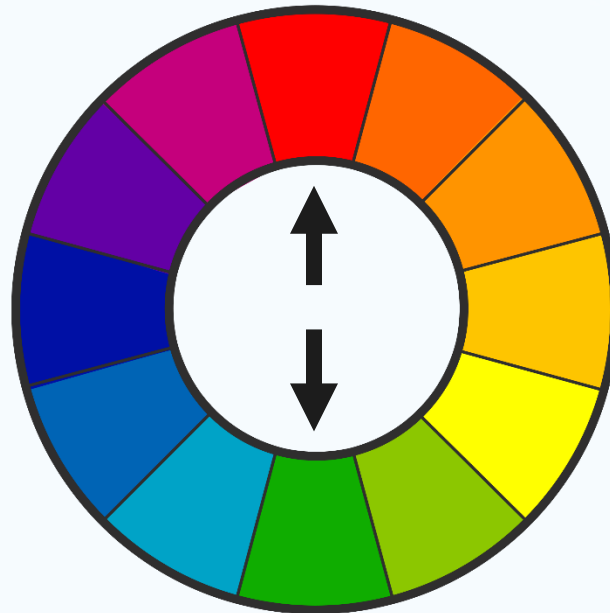


Complementary Colours

Complementary colours are opposite each other on the colour wheel.

They contrast with each other and they are used to create an impact.

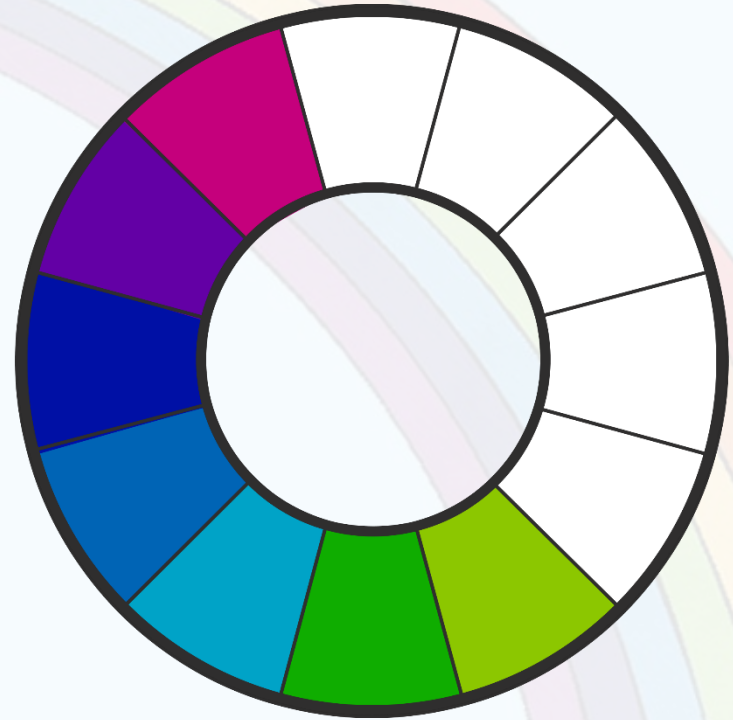
Green and red are complementary colours.



Warm and Cool Colours

Red, yellow and orange are closely associated with items that are warm, e.g. the sun, fire and warmth. They are called warm colours.

Green, blue and purple are the opposite. They are connected to cool items, such as ice, water and coldness. Consequently, they are often known as cool colours



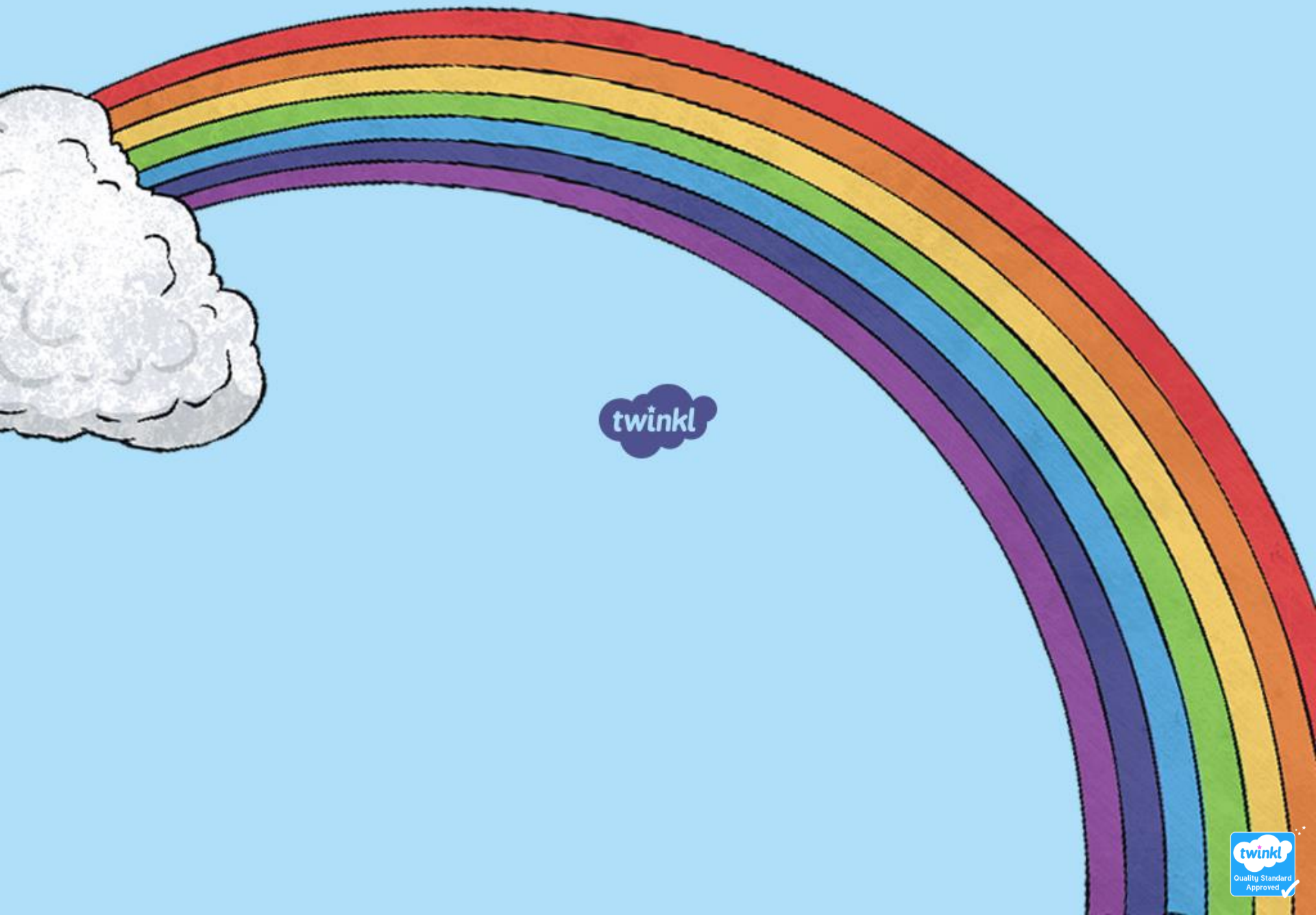
Warm and Cool Colours

Colours can evoke feelings and reactions. Artists will select a particular colour because they want people to experience an emotion when viewing their work.

Red is often used to present anger and yellow can be used for joy.

Knowing how colours work together helps artists to create their work.





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