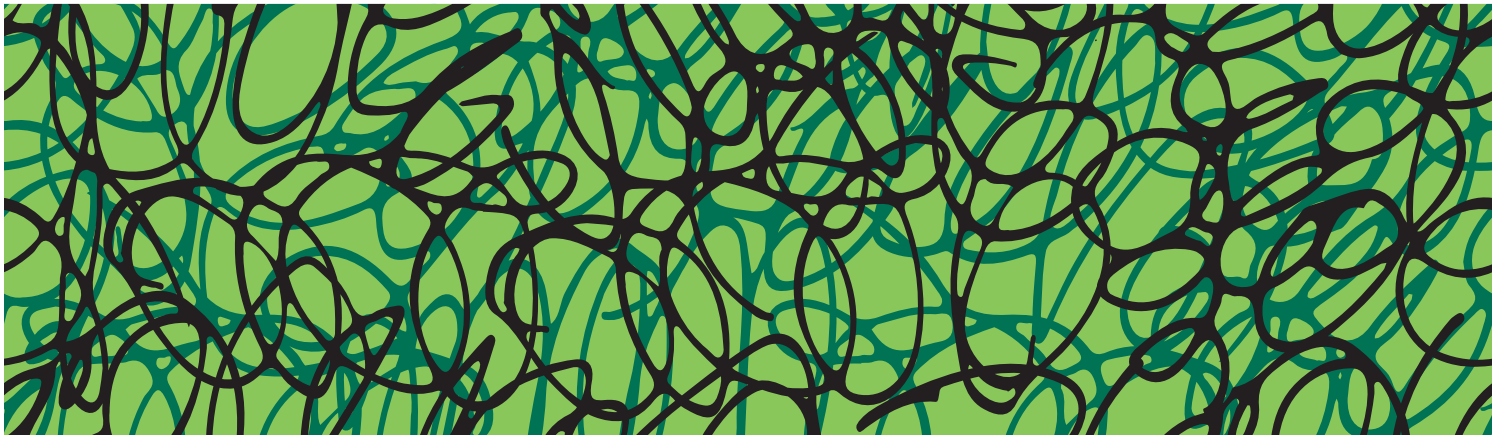




COLOR

AND

LINE



New Mexico Museum of Art

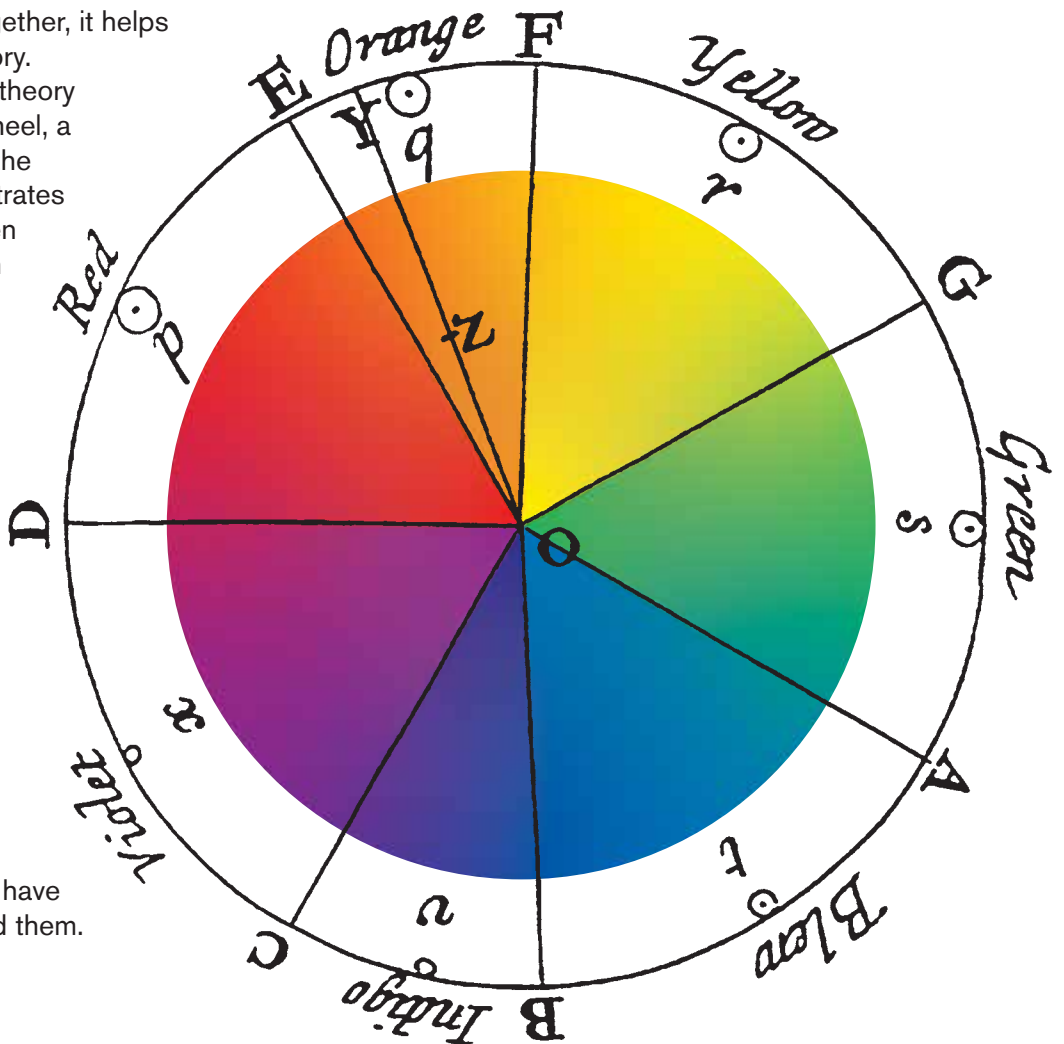
COLOR

Color is the element of art that artists use to create the mood or atmosphere in artwork.

In order to better understand color selection and why colors work together, it helps to understand color theory. The basic map for color theory is known as the color wheel, a circular arrangement of the color spectrum that illustrates the relationships between colors. Sir Isaac Newton published the first color wheel in his book *Opticks* in 1704.

Most people who look at the color wheel will agree on what each color is. Others, those with color blindness, have trouble distinguishing between certain colors. They may see red or yellow as green.

This is Newton's color wheel. It didn't originally have any colors! So we added them.



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COLOR

Color glossary part 1



Primary colors

The three primary colors are red, blue, and yellow. These colors can be mixed to make all of the other colors.



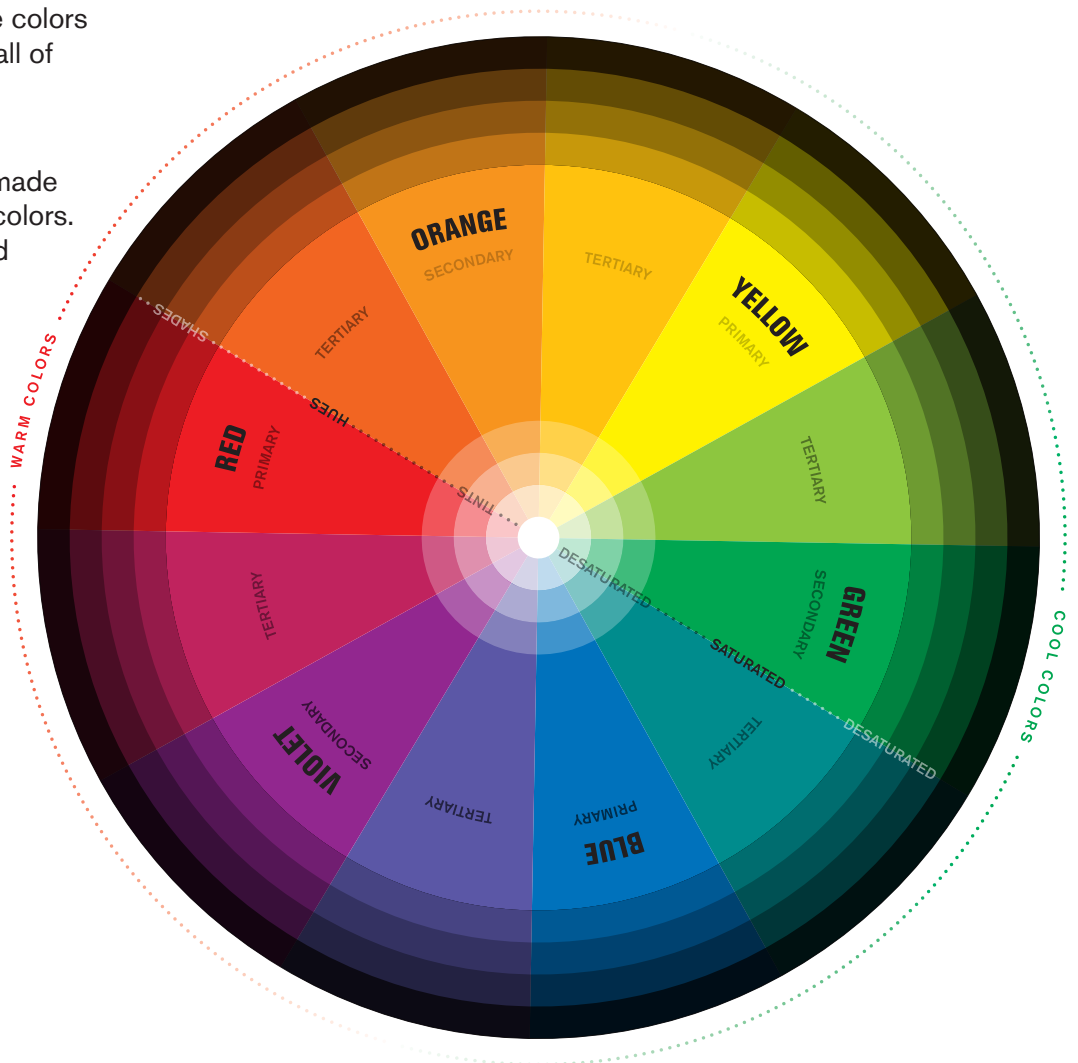
Secondary colors

Secondary colors are made by mixing two primary colors. For example, red added to blue makes purple.



Tertiary colors

These colors are made by combining a secondary color with an adjacent primary color on the color wheel. Blue-green is a tertiary color.



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COLOR

Color glossary part 2

Hue

Hue is the name of the underlying color family such as red, orange, or blue.

Tint

A color tint is produced when white is added to a color.

Shade

A color shade is produced when black is added to a color.

Saturation

The intensity of a color is called saturation. A pure color can become less saturated when white, black, or grey is added to it.

Value

Value is the lightness or darkness of a color.

Complementary colors

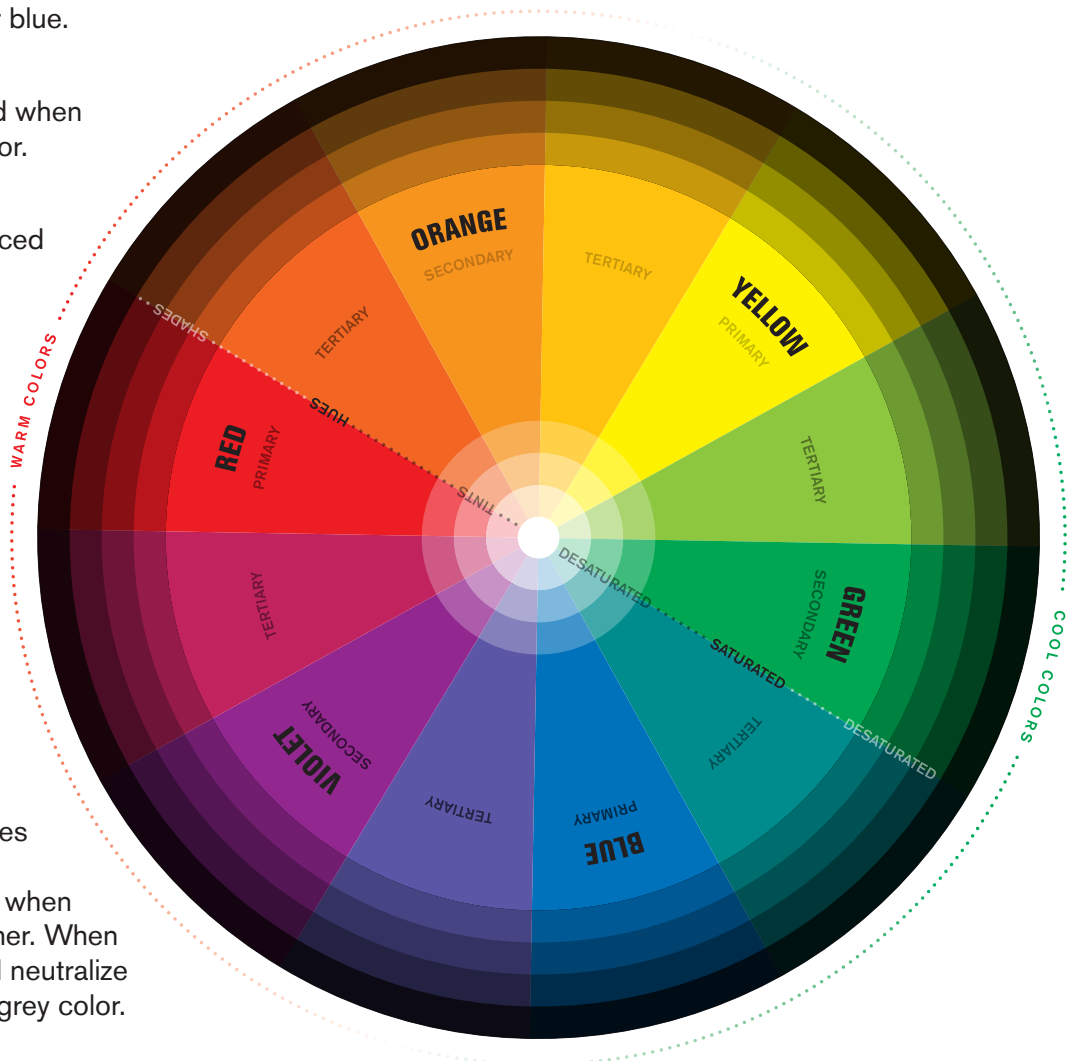
Colors on opposite sides of the wheel have the greatest color contrast when placed next to each other. When mixed, these colors will neutralize each other to create a grey color.

Cool colors

Colors on the green side of the wheel are cool. Cool colors appear to recede from the viewer in art.

Warm colors

Colors on the red side of the wheel are warm. Warm colors appear to advance towards the viewer.



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COLOR

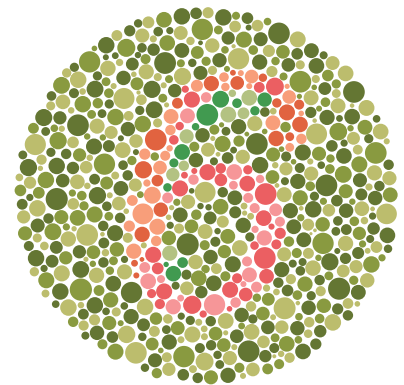
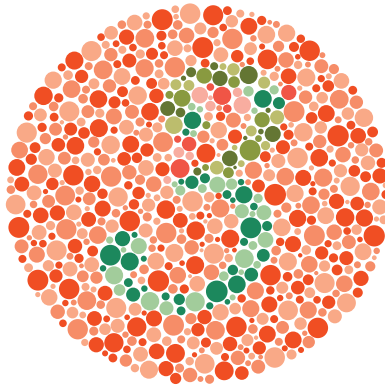
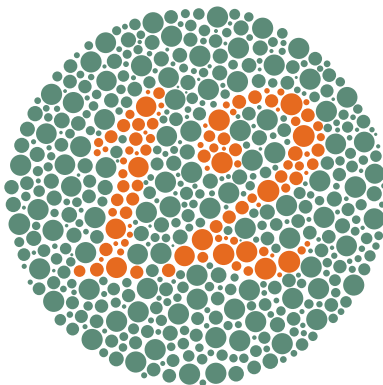
Color blindness

People are color blind when they can't perceive the difference between certain colors.

Color blindness occurs when important parts of a person's eyes, the rods and cones, fail to detect color.

Most people who are color blind have red-green color blindness where red, orange, and yellow appear greener and colors are not as vibrant.

In the 1930s, Shinobu Ishihara created over 30 prints (including the three shown here) made of multicolored dots as a way to test for color blindness. If a person can see the numbers in the circles, then they are not color blind.



COLOR

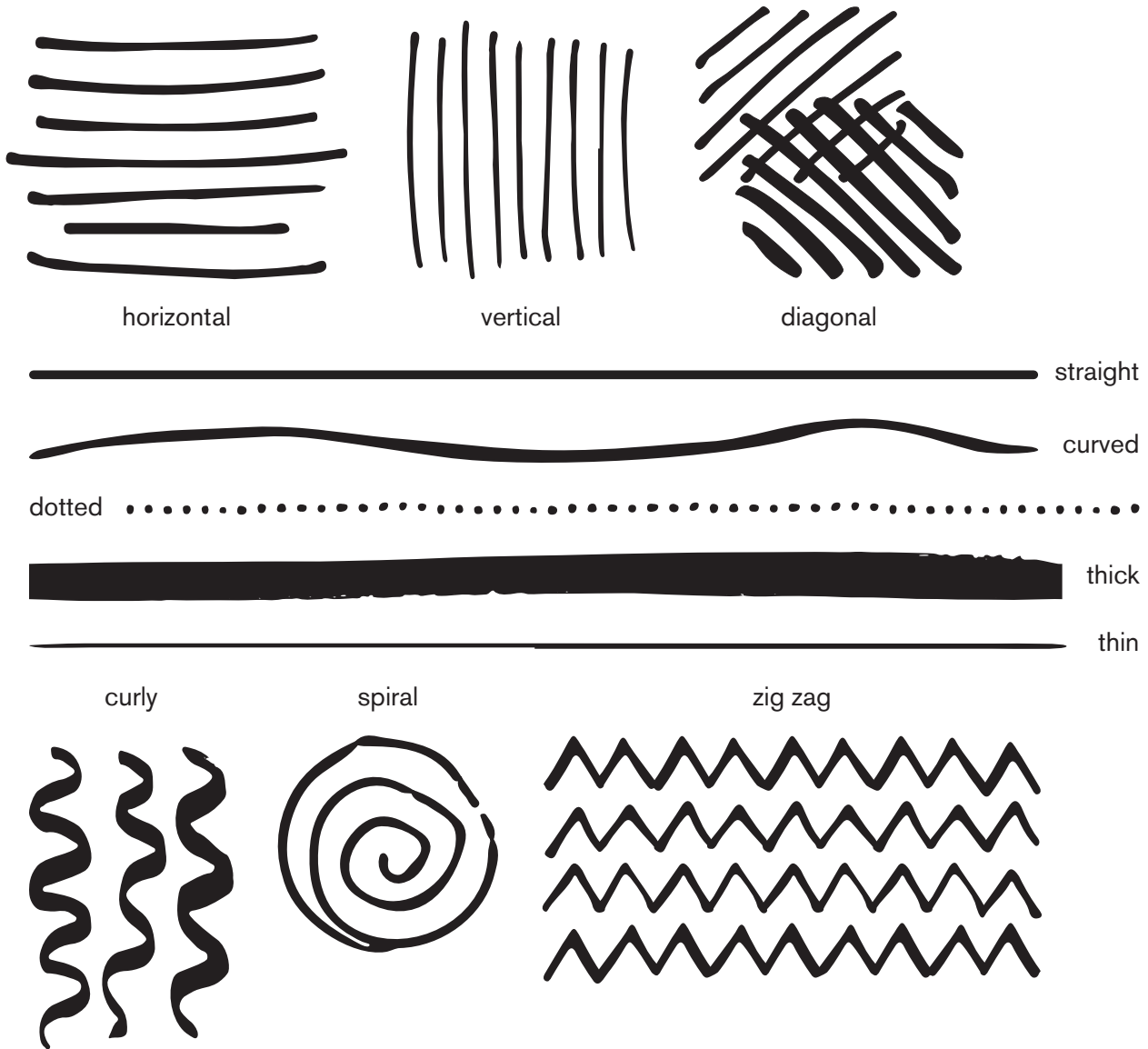
Color activities

- ▶ **Fill a page with warm colors.**
- ▶ **Fill a page with cool colors.**
- ▶ **Draw a self-portrait using 3 colors.**
- ▶ **Find a work of art that has colors you like.
Use those colors to make your own picture.**
- ▶ **Go or look outside.
Draw a picture of the sky.**
- ▶ **If your mood today was a color, what would it be?**
- ▶ **What color is the place you came from?**
- ▶ **What color do people say looks good on you?**
- ▶ **What is your favorite color?**
- ▶ **What color brings you joy?**

LINE

There are many different types of lines.

A line has length (how long is it?), width (thickness), and direction (where is it going? how is it getting there?).
Look around. Look at the edge of objects – you are looking at lines!



LINE

Lines are one of the basic elements of art and the starting point for most artistic creation.

Lines can be found in every type of art and are used in many different ways. Lines can be used to suggest shape, pattern, form, distance, rhythm, movement, and a range of emotions. Lines can be static or dynamic, depending on how the artist chooses to use them.

► **Practice making different kinds of lines here.**

LINE

Line activities

- ▶ Fill a page with as many different types of lines as you can think of.
- ▶ Fill a page with three different kinds of lines.
- ▶ What kind of line can you make with the side of a pencil?
- ▶ Find a work of art that grabs your attention. Sketch a detail of it.
- ▶ Go or look outside. Using one line, draw the outline of something you see.
- ▶ How would a line express your mood today?
- ▶ Could lines tell the story of the place you came from?
- ▶ What do think a good-looking line would look like?
- ▶ Do you have favorite type of line?
- ▶ How could you express joy with one line?