

The French painter Paul Gauguin once said:

“**Color!** What a **deep** and *mysterious* language...
the language of *dreams*.”

Color creates a sensation in the body, and so functions beautifully as an artistic tool to express and evoke emotion.

Just as well, color can also be understood as a **language: as words form sentences, so colors come together or contrast with one another** in a work of art to help convey its message or mood.

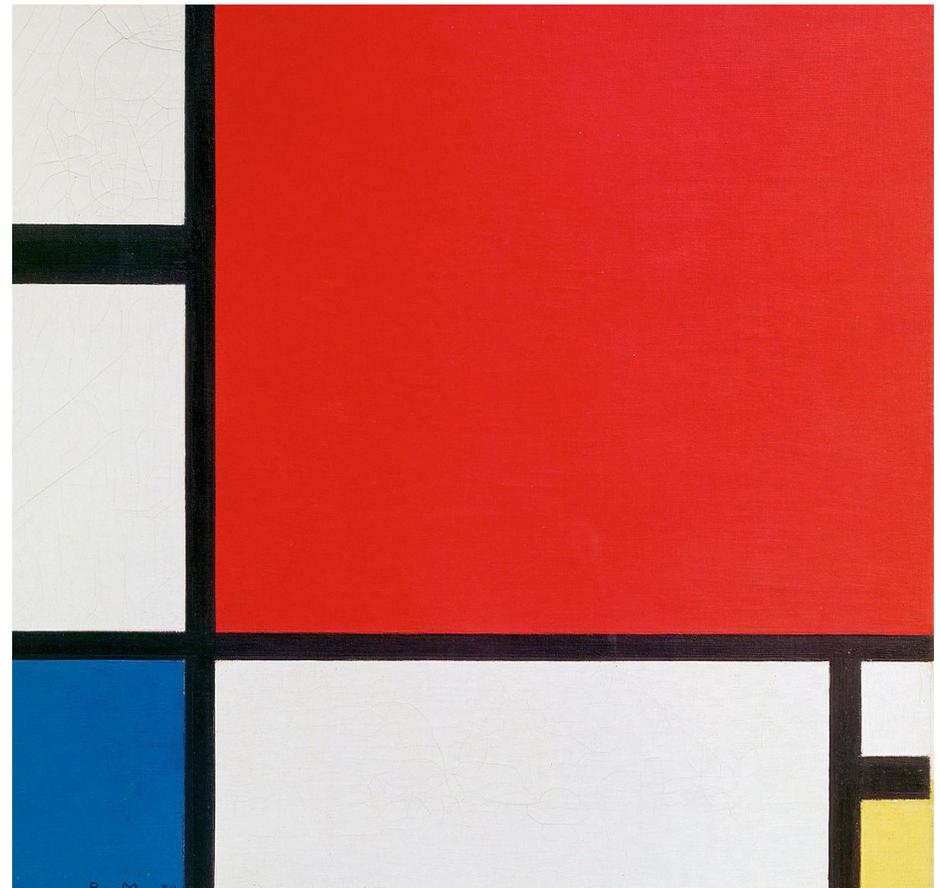
Let's look at some of these relations!

The three **primary** colors are



These three colors are the basis for all others; they are primary because they cannot be made from the mixing of other colors.

How do the primary colors make you feel? Can you find one word to describe each of them? How do they look together? Use the space below.



Piet Mondrian, *Composition II*, 1930

Green, **orange**, and **violet** are the three *secondary* colors.

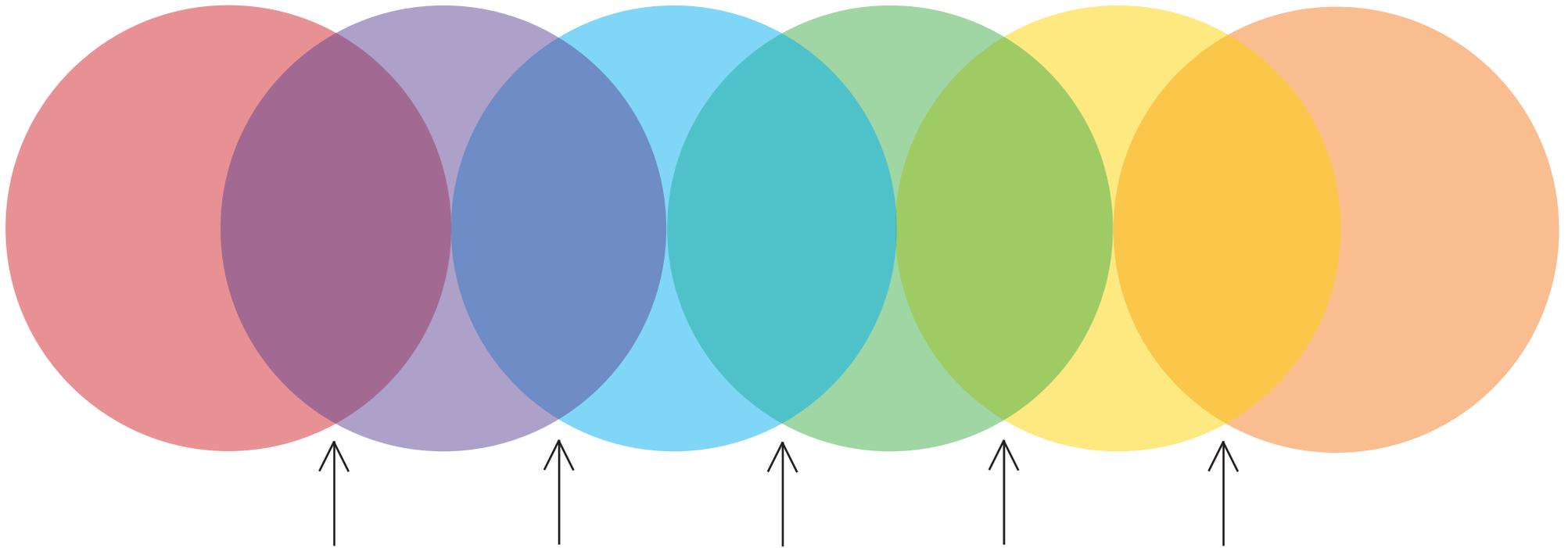


Irises, Vincent Van Gogh, 1889

They are created by mixing two of the primary colors together in equal amounts.

Use the secondary colors to draw a picture in the space below.

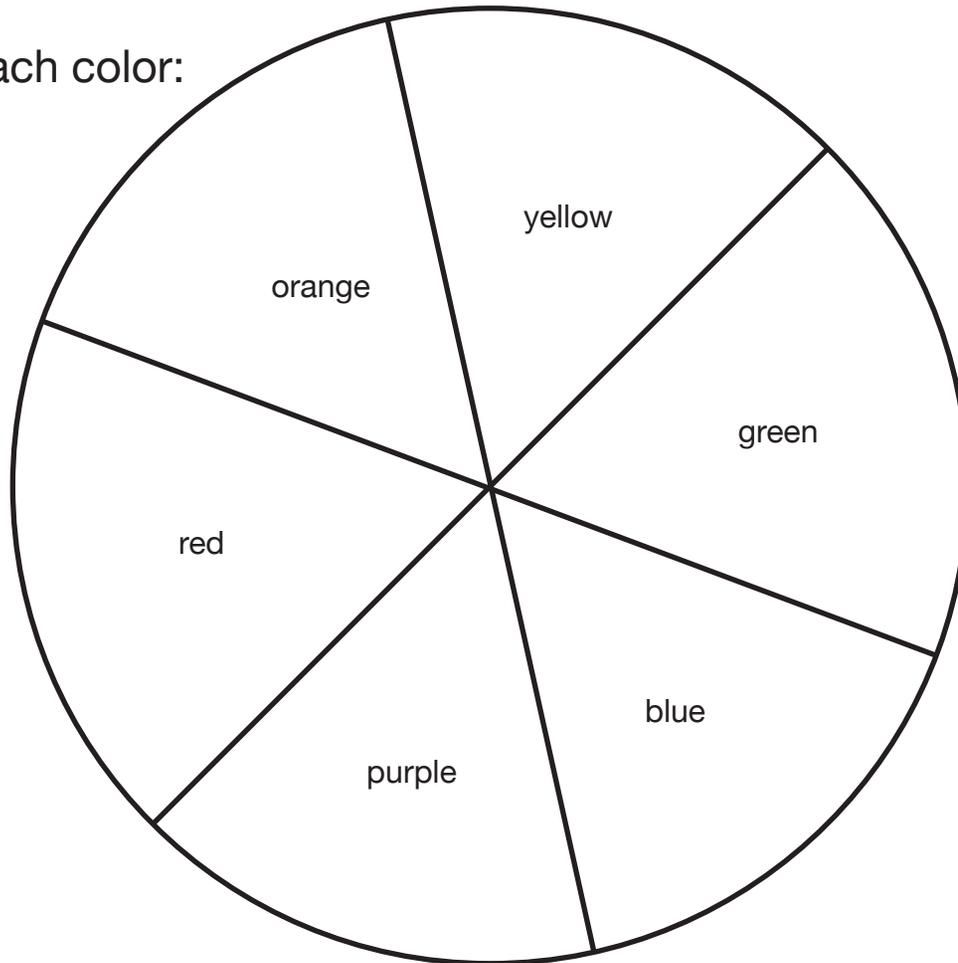
When you mix a primary color and a secondary color together, you get a ***tertiary*** color, such as **red-orange** or **blue-green**.



some common tertiary colors include
fuchsia, **lavender blue**, **teal**, **chartreuse**, and **amber**.

The Color Wheel

Fill in each color:



What do you notice about how colors are arranged on a color wheel?

hint:

red + yellow = orange

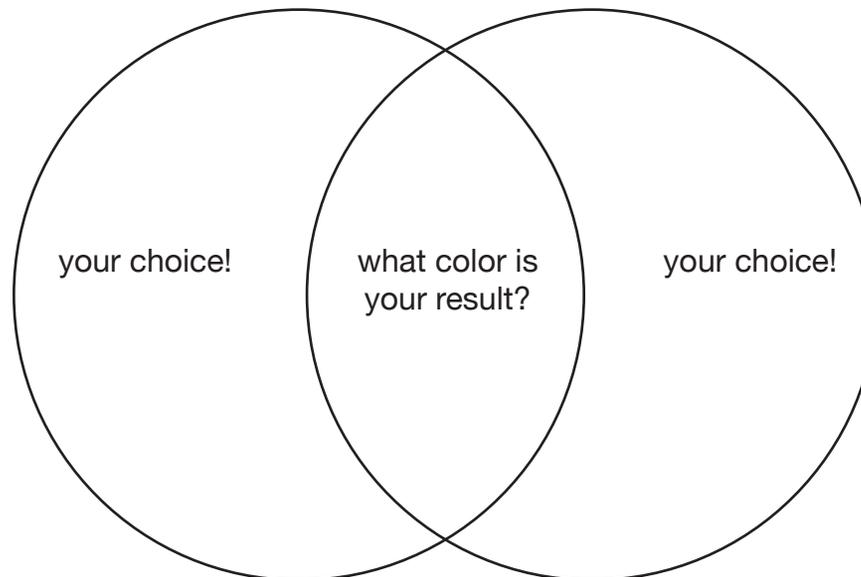
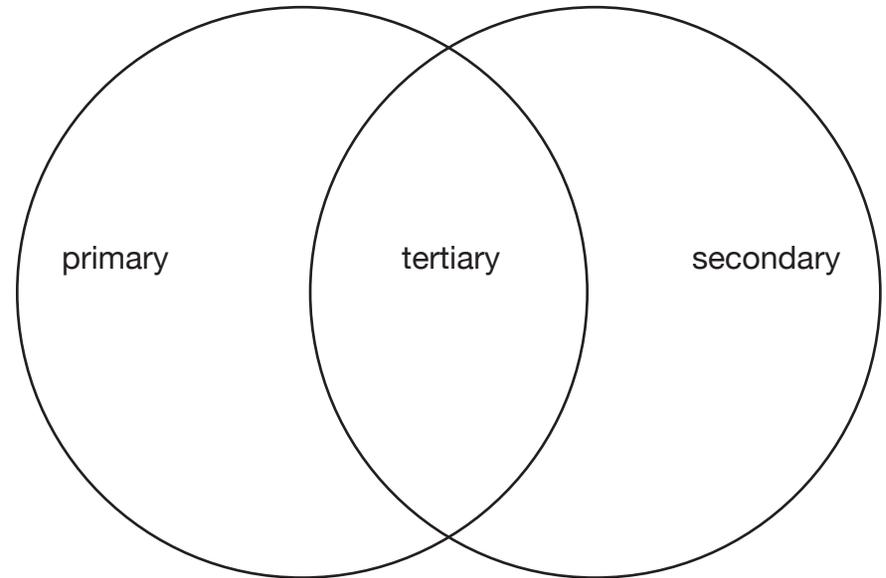
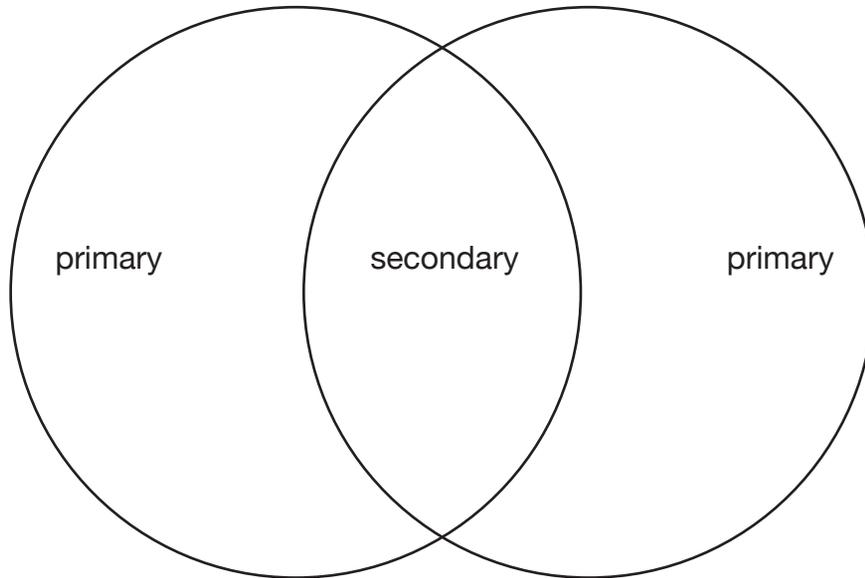
yellow + blue = green

blue + red = purple

The colors opposite each other on the color wheel are **complimentary** colors (ex. blue-orange, purple-yellow, red-green). When placed next to each other, they produce the strongest contrasts.

Mix Your Own Colors!

Use each diagram to create colors of your own.



What does color mean to you?

Each color may come with several connotations, or personal meanings.

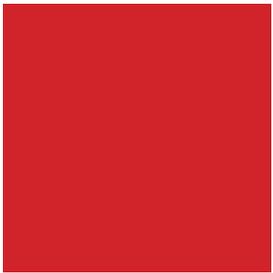
For example, a medium shade of yellow makes artist John Baldessari think of cheese, or orange reminds him of carrots.



John Baldessari, *Prima Facie (Fifth State)*: Warm Brownie/American Cheese/Carrot Stick/Black Bean Soup/Perky Peach/Leek, 2006

Take a moment to think about some personal associations you have with certain colors.

Write under each color what it makes you think or remind you of. If you need inspiration, look around you, or think about your favorite places or objects.



Use the squares below to fill them with colors of your choice and then write what they remind you of.

