

Color wheels

Primary colors: the three basic colors (red, yellow, and blue) of reflected light.

Secondary colors: three colors that can be made from the three primary colors.

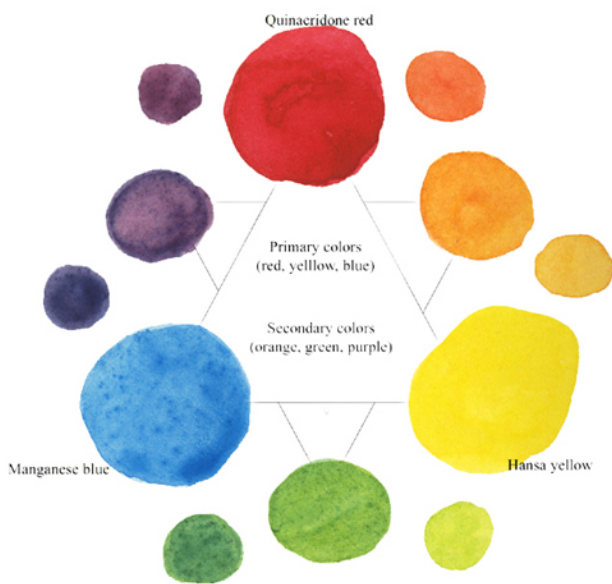
Red + yellow = orange, yellow + blue = green, blue + red = purple.

Tertiary colors: can be mixed from one primary and one secondary.

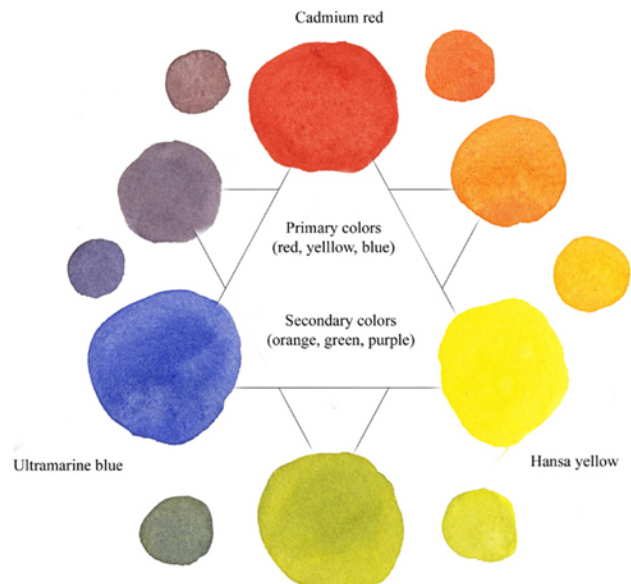
Complementary colors: A primary and the opposite secondary color on the wheel.

Red and green are complementary colors; used together they enhance each other.

Analogous colors: colors that lie next to each other on the color wheel.



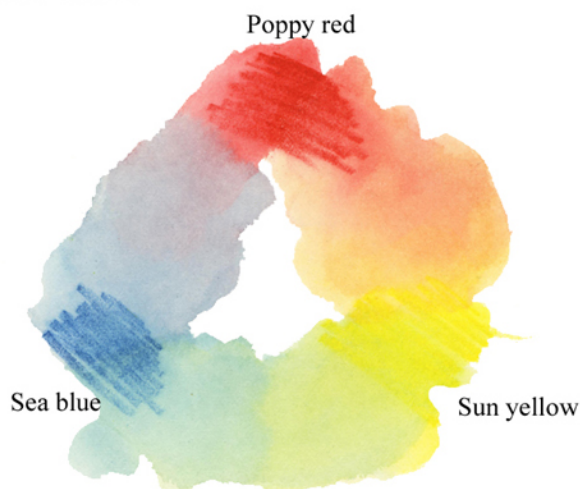
Tertiary colors: red-orange, yellow-orange, yellow-green, blue-green, blue-violet, red-violet.



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The color wheels above use Daniel Smith watercolor primaries as shown. Notice how different blues and reds affect the secondary color mixes.

The color wheel to the lower left was made with Derwent Inktense water-soluble pencils.



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You don't have to make a large investment in materials to start out in color. Try a selection of primary colors and perhaps a gray and brown. Some artists like to have a warm and a cool version of each.

Warm colors lean to the reds and yellows, while **cool colors** lean toward the blues and violets. Warm colors appear to move forward, while cool colors tend to recede.