

CREATIVE COLORS



Color is one of the most powerful elements in an artist's toolbox. Let's explore how color can be used in a work of art.

UNDERSTANDING COLOR



Take a look at the color wheel above. It shows the 3 **primary** colors, along with 3 **secondary** colors that can be made by mixing primaries.

Label primaries with a **P** and secondaries with an **S**.

Complementary colors are opposite one another on the color wheel. List the complementary color pairs shown above:

_____ & _____

_____ & _____

_____ & _____

A **tertiary** color is made by mixing a secondary color with a primary color. Name one tertiary color that could be made using the colors above.

Artists often use a *color scheme* to create a particular mood within a work of art. Find paintings that contain the following 4 color schemes. Describe how each work makes you feel. How does color contribute to that feeling?

Analogous

Uses colors that are next to each other on the color wheel

Complementary

Uses colors that are on opposite sides of the color wheel

Warm

Uses yellows, reds, and oranges

Cool

Uses blues, greens, purples



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Artists often use colors to symbolize emotions or character traits. Sometimes, you might be able to guess what the colors mean even when you don't completely understand what an artwork is about.



Lodovico David, *The Judgment of Paris*, c.1690, oil on canvas, Museum purchase, SN11033

Take a close look at *The Judgment of Paris* by Lodovico David. Everyone in the painting is wearing a different color. What do you think the colors of the characters' robes can tell us about them?

Purple _____

Red _____

White/Blue _____

Green _____

A COLORFUL SELF-PORTRAIT

In the space to the right, draw a self-portrait sketch. Label your drawing with the colors you plan to use to give your image visual interest, mood, or symbolic meaning. Explain your reasoning below.

