The Color Wheel

An Introduction to the Color Wheel and Color Theory

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The Color Wheel

- The color wheel shows relationships between the colors.

- Artists often use the color wheel to help understand how colors relate to one another.
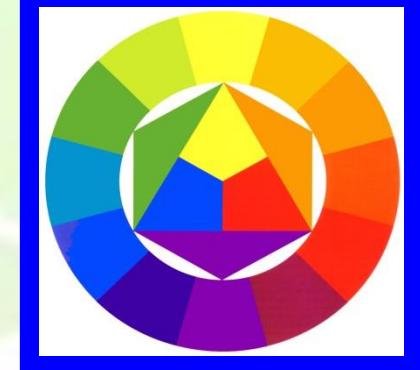
The Color Wheel

Let's learn about Color!

- **Primary, Secondary, & Tertiary Colors**
- **Warm Colors**
- **Cool Colors**
- **Neutrals**
- **Color Schemes**
  - ◈ **Monochromatic, Complementary, & Analogous**
- **Mixing Colors**

COLOR MIXING

Primary + Secondary

When you mix the Primary Colors together, you get the Secondary Colors.
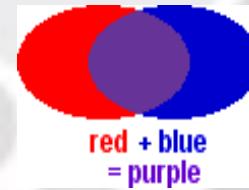
What colors do these make?
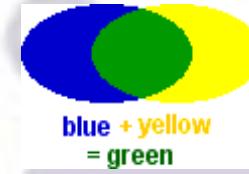
Red + Yellow = Orange

yellow + red = orange

Red + Blue = Purple

red + blue = purple

Blue + Yellow = Green

blue + yellow = green

Click the Mouse Anywhere to Reveal the Answers

COLOR MIXING

Tints and Shades

Making Tints and Shades

- A shade of color is made by mixing that color with black.

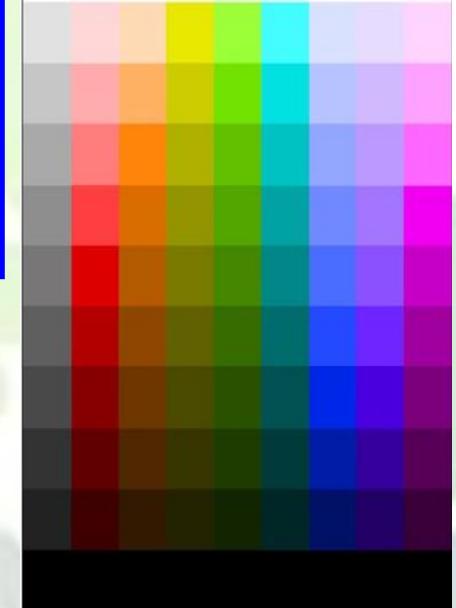- A tint of color is made by mixing that color with white.

NE

COLOR MIXING
Value, Tints, & Shades

The lightness or darkness of a color is called its value.

- **Tints** are light values that are made by mixing a color with white. For example, pink is a tint of red (red+white), and gray is a tint of black (black+white).

- **Shades** are dark values that are made by mixing a color with black. Maroon is a shade of red, and navy is a shade of blue.
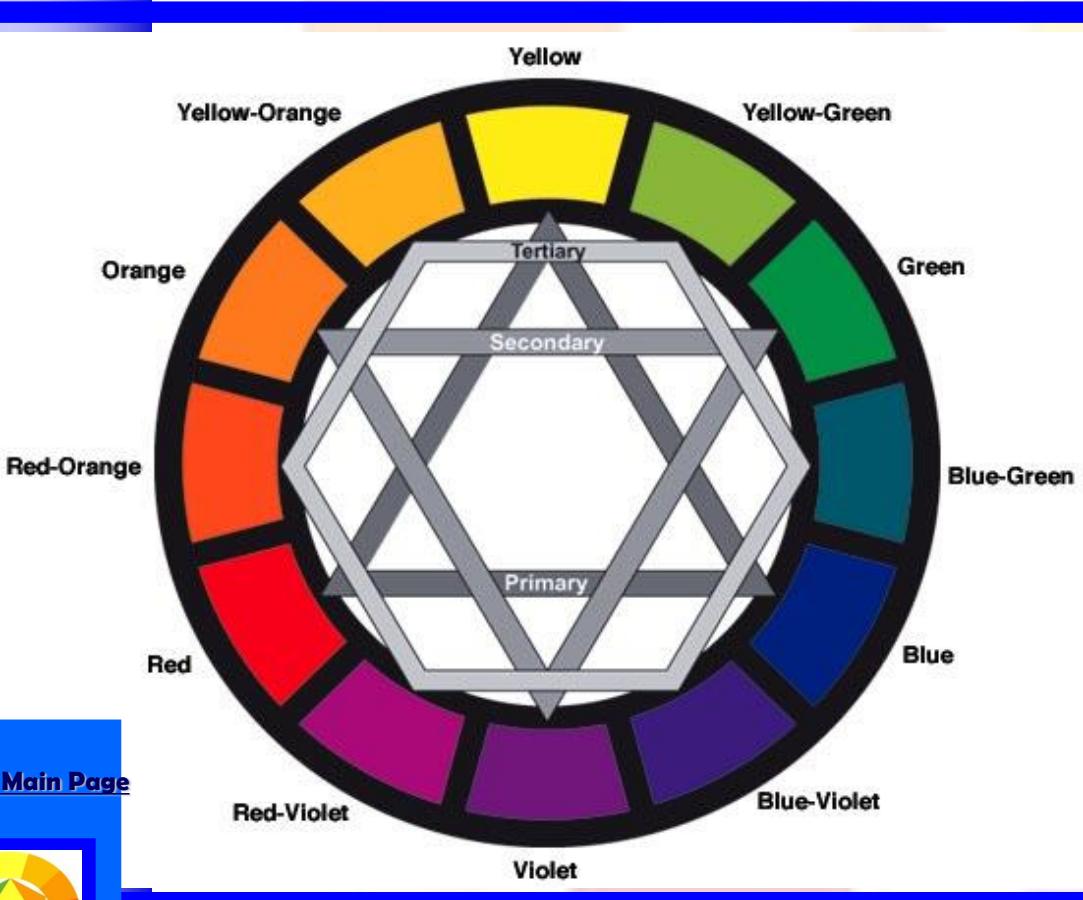
Color Schemes

■ **Monochromatic Color Scheme**

■ **Analogous Color Scheme**

■ **Complementary Color Scheme**

■ **Split-Complementary Color Scheme**

■ **Double Split-Complement Color Scheme**

■ **Triadic Color Scheme**

Click on the Red Boxes Above to Proceed

The Color Wheel

Primary Colors

Secondary Colors

Tertiary Colors

Click on the Red Boxes to the Right to Proceed

Primary Colors
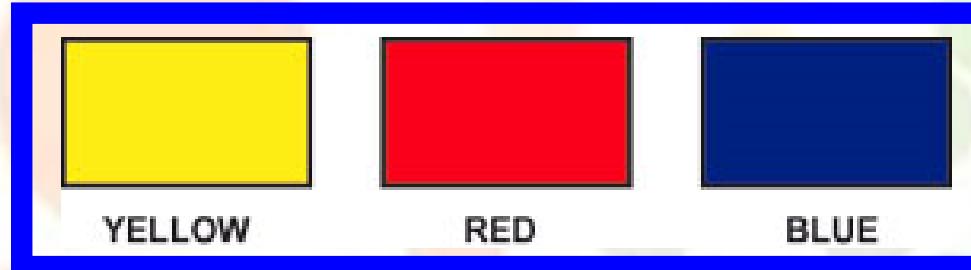
YELLOW   RED   BLUE

- **The primary colors are red, blue, and yellow.**

- **Primary colors cannot be made from other colors.**

Yellow
Yellow-Orange   Yellow-Green
Orange   Green
Red-Orange   Blue-Green
Red   Blue
Red-Violet   Blue-Violet
Violet

Tertiary
Secondary
Primary
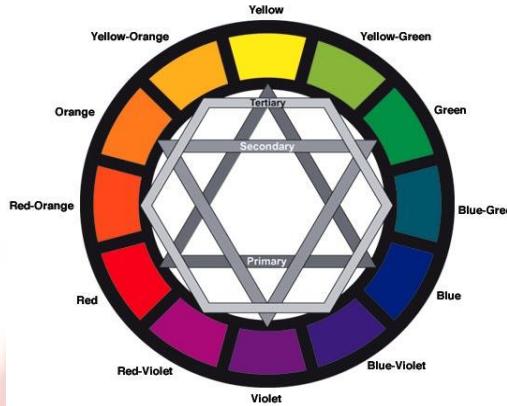
Secondary Colors

- **The secondary colors are orange, green, and purple.**
- **Secondary colors are made from mixing the primary colors.**

Tertiary Colors

Primary	+	Secondary	=	Tertiary
YELLOW	+	ORANGE	=	YELLOW-ORANGE
RED	+	ORANGE	=	RED-ORANGE
RED	+	VIOLET	=	RED-VIOLET
BLUE	+	VIOLET	=	BLUE-VIOLET
BLUE	+	GREEN	=	BLUE-GREEN
YELLOW	+	GREEN	=	YELLOW-GREEN

- **Mixing primary and secondary colors creates tertiary colors. Tertiary colors include:**
    1) **Red-Violet**
    2) **Blue-Violet**
    3) **Blue-Green**
    4) **Yellow Green**
    5) **Red-Orange**
    6) **Yellow-Orange**
- **On the color wheel, the tertiary colors are located between the primary and secondary colors they are made from.**

Warm Colors

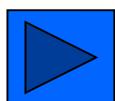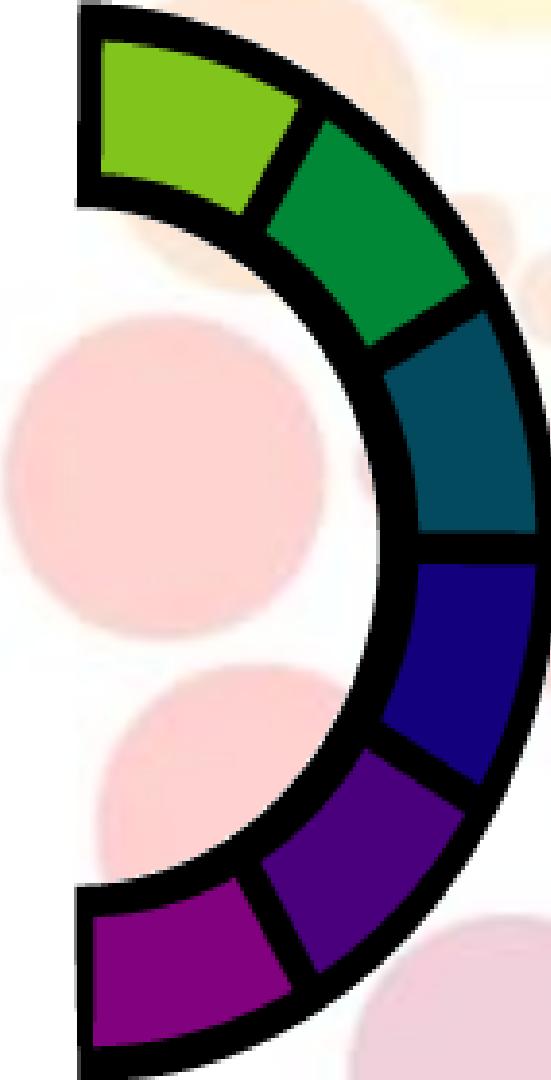- **The warm colors are red, orange, yellow, and anything in between.**

- **They are called warm because they remind you of the sun or fire.**

- **Warm colors seem to come out at you in space.**

NE

Cool Colors

- **The Cool colors are blue, green, purple and anything in between.**

- **They are called cool because they remind you of the earth or a cool creek.**

- **Cool colors seem to recede from you in space.**

NE

Neutrals

- Neutrals don't usually show up on the color wheel. Neutrals include black, white, gray, and sometimes brown and beige. They are sometimes called "earth tones."

- There are a few different ways to make neutrals. You can blend black and white to make gray. You can create brown in two ways—by blending two complementary colors together or by blending all three primary colors together.
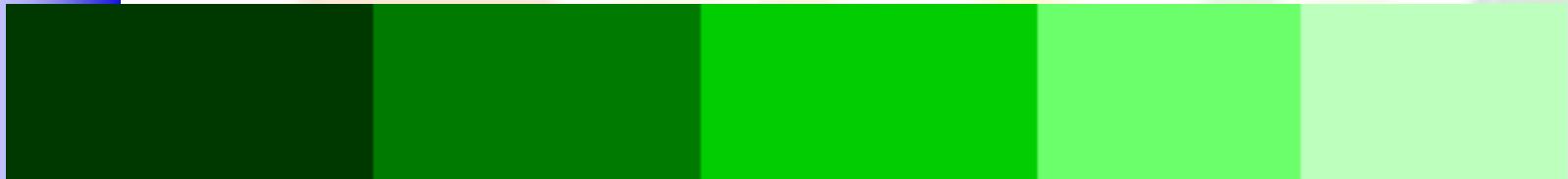

Snow in New York
by Robert Henri

In *Snow in New York*, Robert Henri uses many different neutrals. You can see a few glimpses of red paint, but the overall effect is of natural browns, whites and grays--like those you might see in rocks, sand, dirt, or clay.
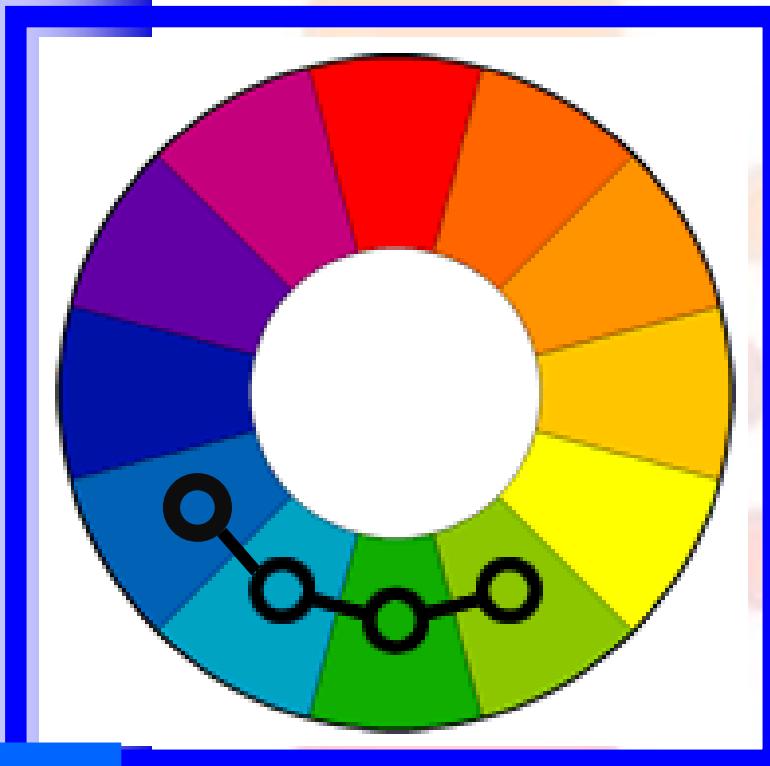
Monochromatic Colors

- **A monochromatic scheme consists of different values (tints and shades) of a single color. An example of a monochrome color scheme could include any color mixed with white or black. The example above is a green monochromatic color scheme.**
  - **A shade of green is made by mixing green and black.**
  - **A tint of green is made by mixing green and white.**
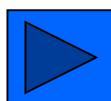
Analogous Colors

- These colors are located next to each other on the wheel, such as:

  - Blue, Blue-green, Green and Yellow-Green

  - Red, Red-Orange, Orange and Yellow-orange

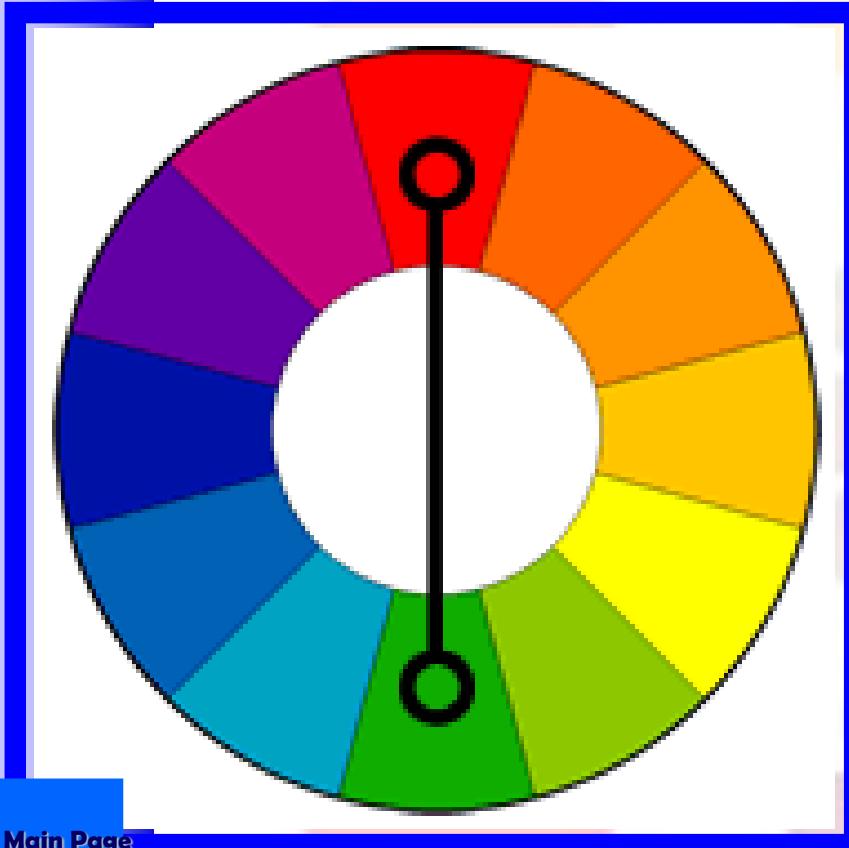- Analogous color groups all share a primary hue in common.

Complementary Colors

- Complementary colors are the colors that are directly across from each other on the color wheel

  - Blue & Orange
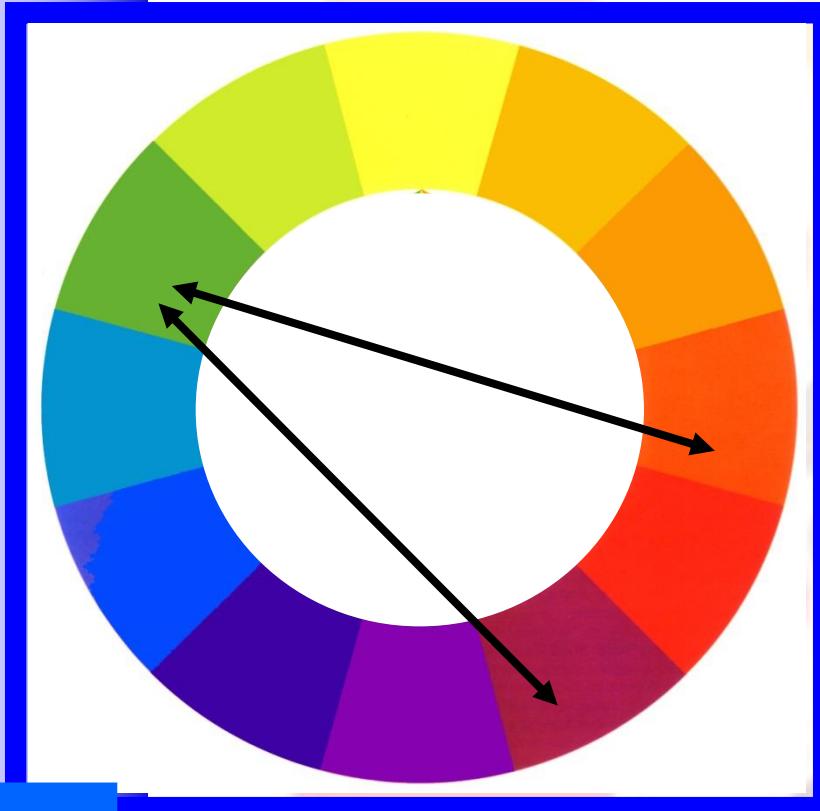 - Red & Green
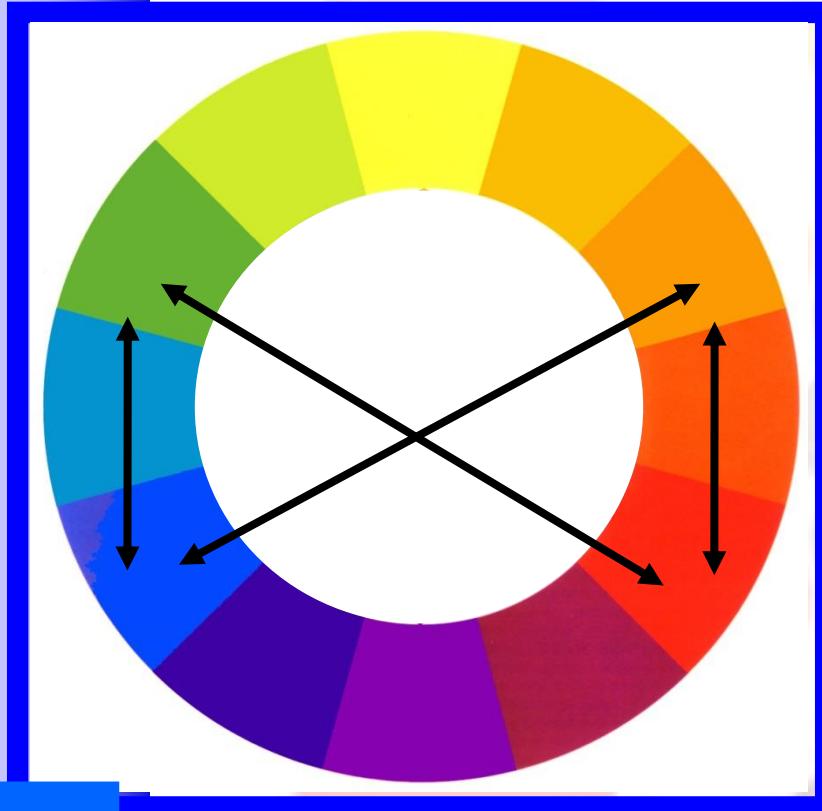 - Purple & Yellow

Split-Complement Color Scheme

- **A split-compliment color scheme includes a main color and the two colors on each side of its complementary (opposite) color on the color wheel.**

- **An example of a split-compliment color scheme could be green, violet-red, and red-orange.**

Double Split-Complement Color Scheme
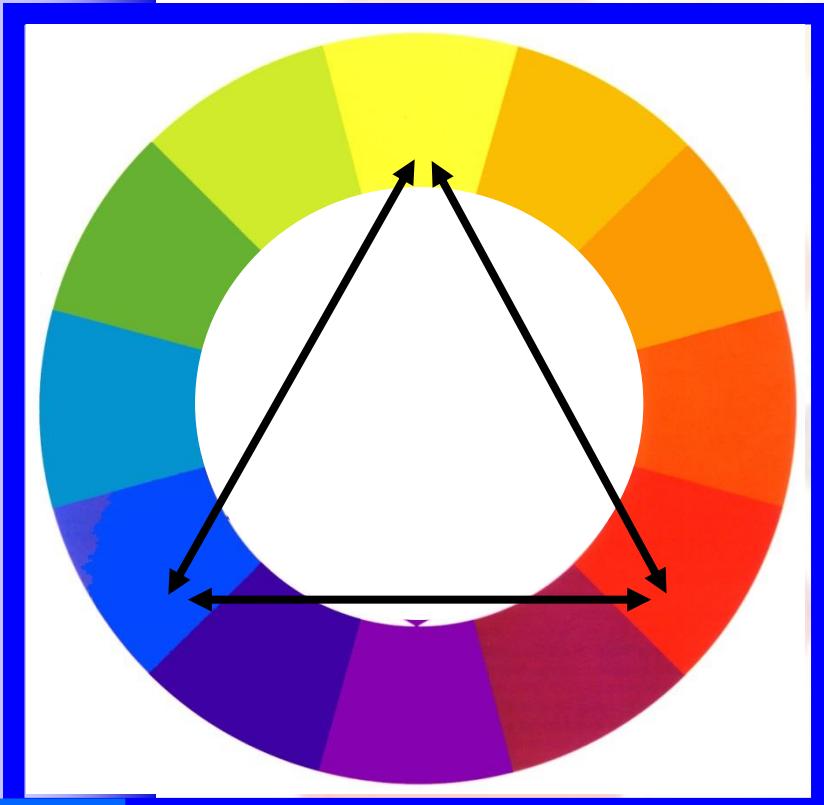
- **A double split-complement (also called tetradic) uses two pairs of complements, one space apart on the color wheel.**

- **An example is red, green, orange, and blue.**

Triadic Color Scheme

- **A triadic color scheme uses colors at the points of an equilateral triangle (three colors spaced equally on the color wheel).**

- **These are sometimes called balanced colors.**

- **An example of a triadic color scheme could be red, blue, and yellow; green, orange, and purple, etc.**