The Elements of Art

The Ingredients for a great Composition

What are the elements of art?

The Elements of Art are the "tools" that artists use to make art. There are 7 of them:

Line   **Value**   **Texture**

Shape   **Form**   **Space**   **Color**

<u>Line</u>

A line is a path that a point takes through space. Lines can be thick, thin, dotted or solid. They can make straight movements, zig-zags, waves or curls.
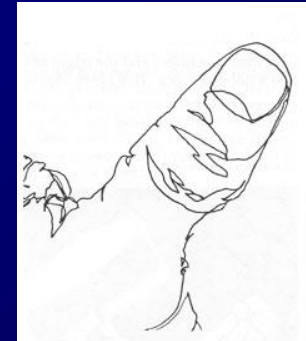
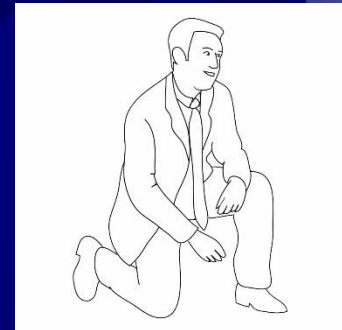They may be horizontal

vertical

diagonal

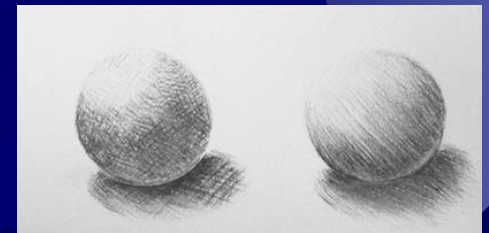**<u>Descriptive Lines</u>**- describe what an object really looks like.

*Contour lines show surface details and reflect the objects mass and volume.

*Outlines show the outer shape of the object and some surface lines that do not reflect the 3 dimensional qualities.

*Hatching and Crosshatching-
lines used for shading to show form.

Implied Lines Lines that are indicated indirectly at edges where shapes meet, where a form ends and the space around it begins, or by positioning several objects in a row.

☀ Lines of sight- Lines suggested by the direction in which figures in a picture are looking.

☀ **Closure**- Completing partial forms and shapes by seeing lines that do not exist.
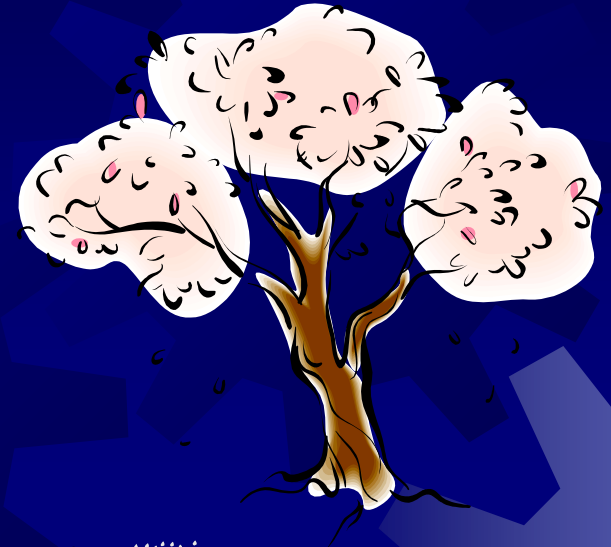

☀ **Edges-** Where edges of shapes meet and colors or textures change.

* **<u>Lines</u>** can convey emotion as well. They may show excitement, anger, calmness, tension, happiness and many other feelings.Because of this, some are said to be expressive.
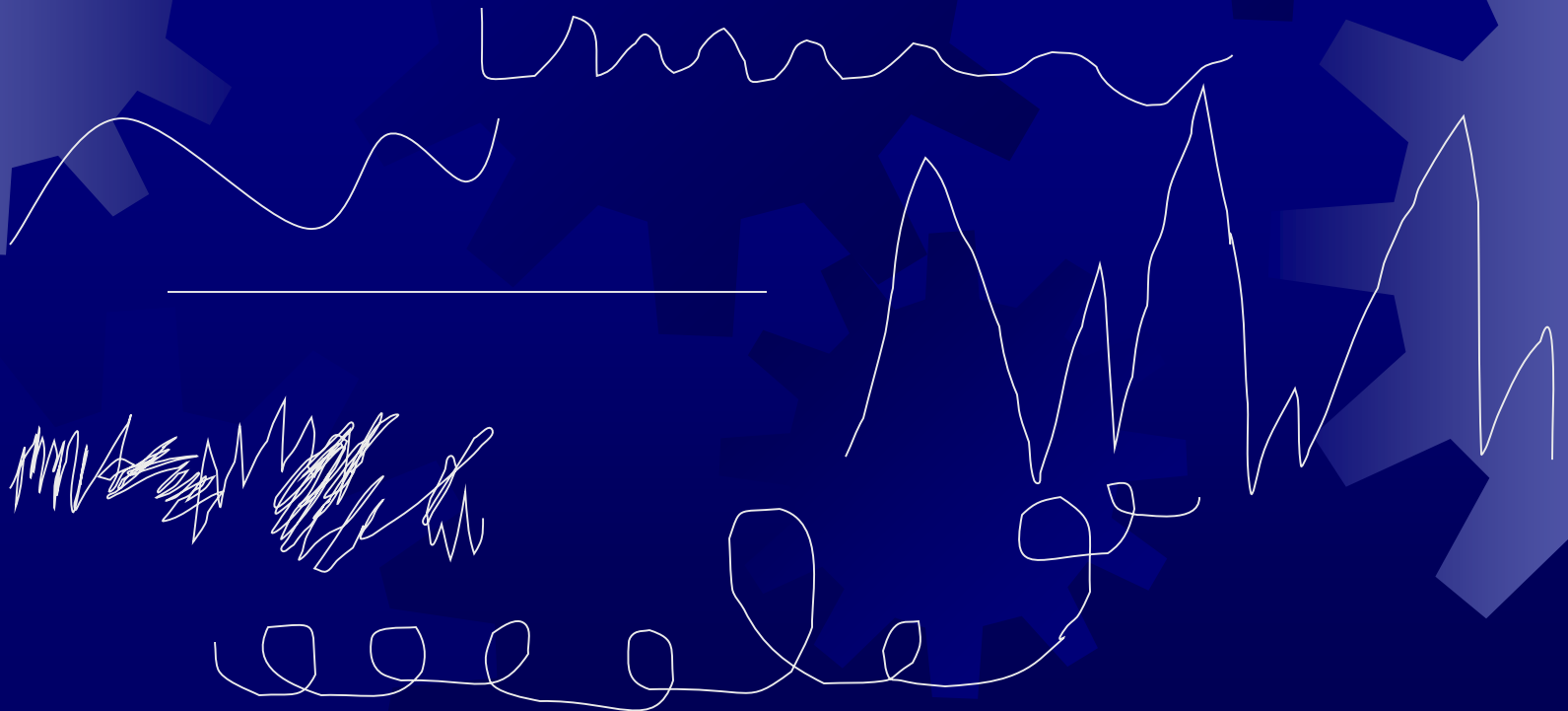
# **Expressive Lines** tend to be found in nature and are very organic

Shape

Shape is created when a line becomes connected and encloses space. It is the outline or outward appearance of something. Shapes are **2 Dimensional** (2-D) which means there are 2 ways they can be measured.

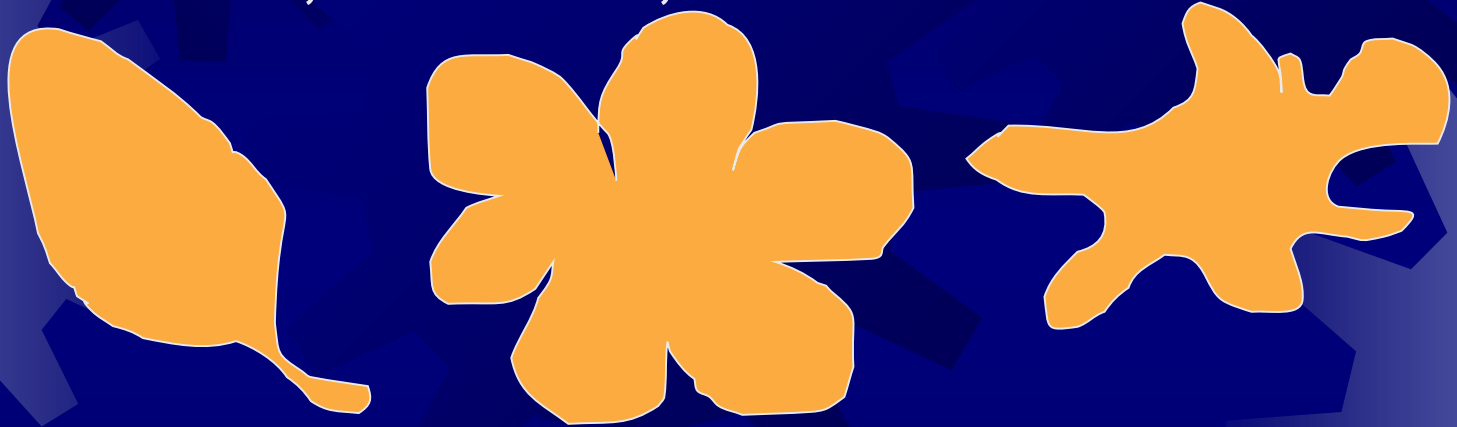You can measure its **LENGTH** and its **WIDTH**.

There are two basic types of shapes.

The 2 types of **shape**

Geometric shapes have smooth even edges and are measurable. The include the square, the circle, the triangle and the rectangle.
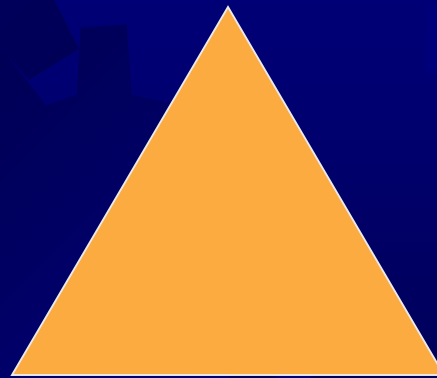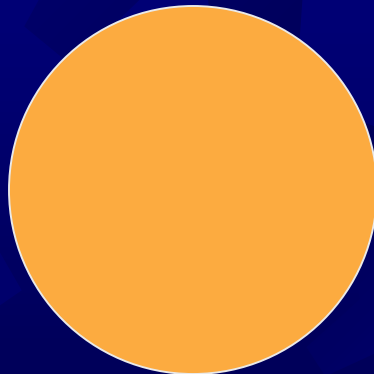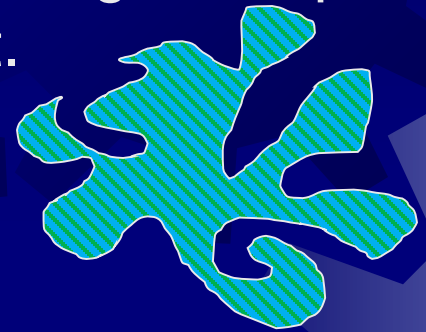
Organic shapes have more complicated edges and are usually found in nature, flowers, amoeba, etc.
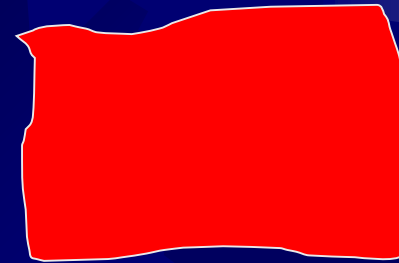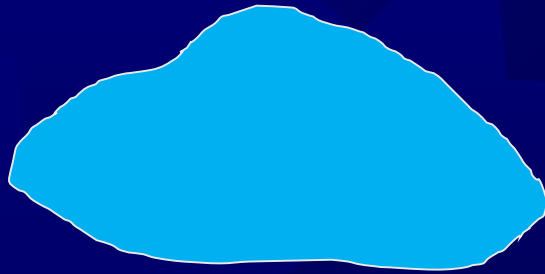
Shape Categories-

Shapes and forms can be OPEN or CLOSED

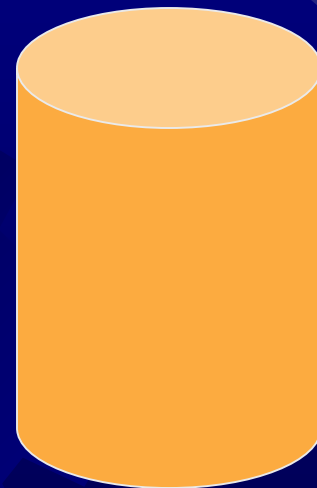**Open** shapes and forms have a lot of negative spaces, interior areas and show movement.
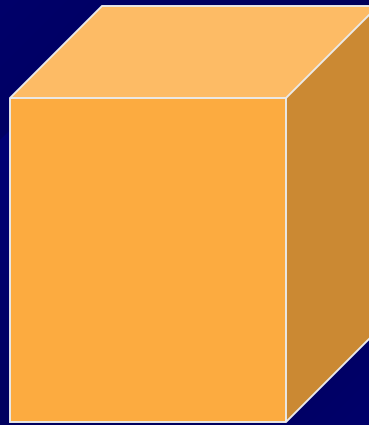
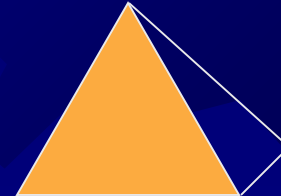**Closed** shapes and forms are heavy, solid, and static.

Form

A Form is a shape that has become **3-Dimensional** (3-D) Form has **LENGTH, WIDTH and DEPTH**--which is the 3rd dimension.Depth shows the thickness of the object. Forms are NOT flat like shapes are!

Turning **Shapes** into **Forms**

A triangle becomes a cone or a pyramid
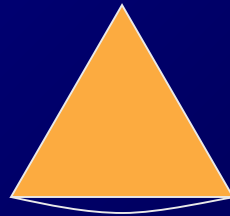
A square becomes a cube

Turning **Shapes** into **Forms**

A rectangle can become a box or a cylinder
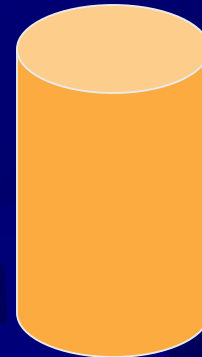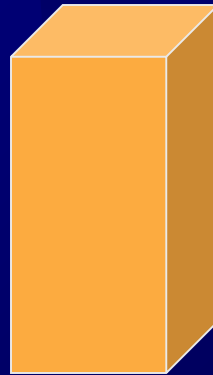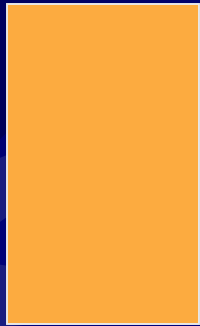
In order to turn a circle into a sphere, you must shade it. You can't add another side to it!
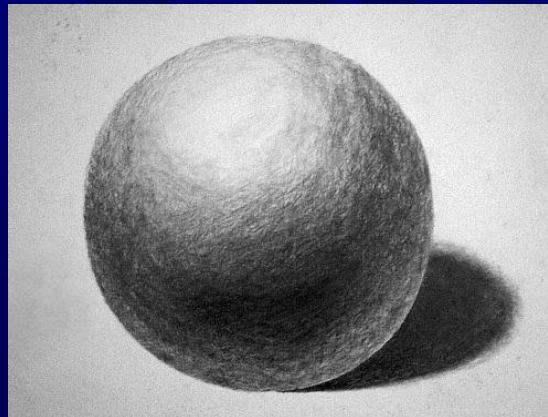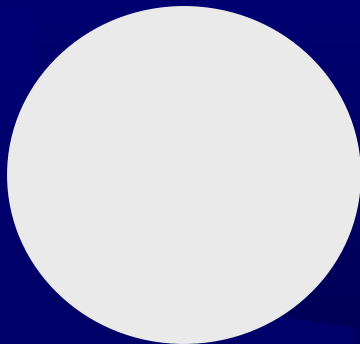
<u>Value</u>

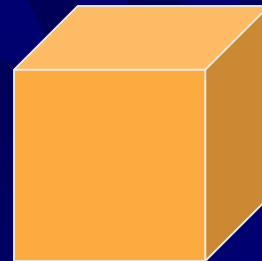Value is the lightness or darkness of a color. Value makes objects appear more real because it imitates natural light. When showing value in a work of art, you will need a **<u>LIGHT SOURCE</u>**.

A **<u>light source</u>** is the place where the light is coming from, the darkest areas are always on the opposite side of the light.

Value

In order to have a successful drawing, you will need to show a **full value range,** which means that there are very light areas, middle tones, and very dark areas. This is a way of giving a work of art **Contrast**.

In drawing **value** can be added several ways:
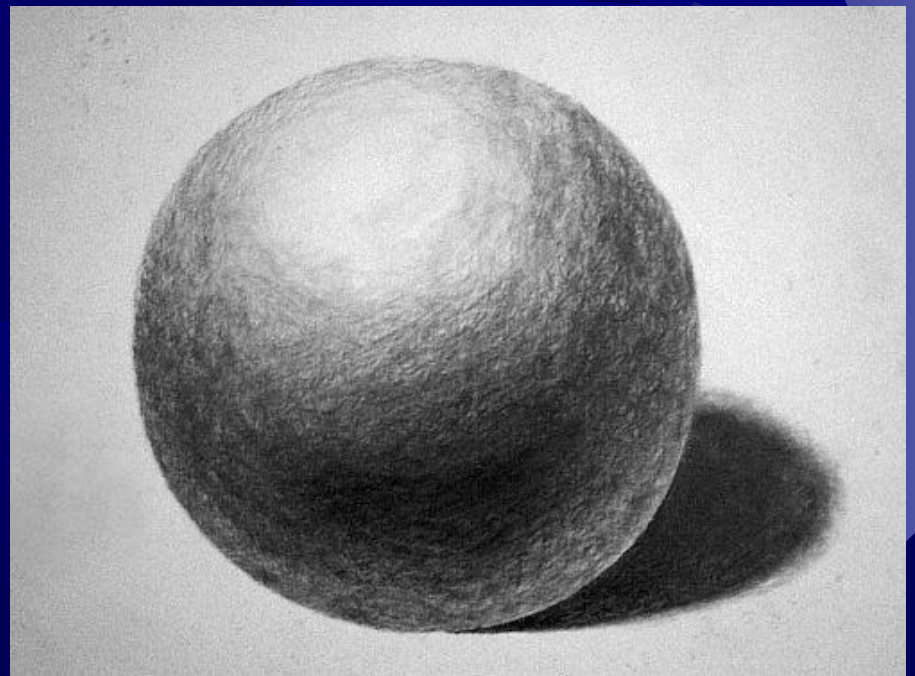
Ways **value** can be added:

Cross-hatching is when you use irregular lengths of parallel lines that cross over each other diagonally. The closer together the lines are placed, the darker the value.

Ways **value** can be added

Stippling is the use of dots to create shade. This is

accomplished by placing dots very close together to create dark values and farther apart to create lighter values.

Ways **value** can be added

Soft shading is when you use your pencil to create soft gradual movements from one value to the next using full value range.
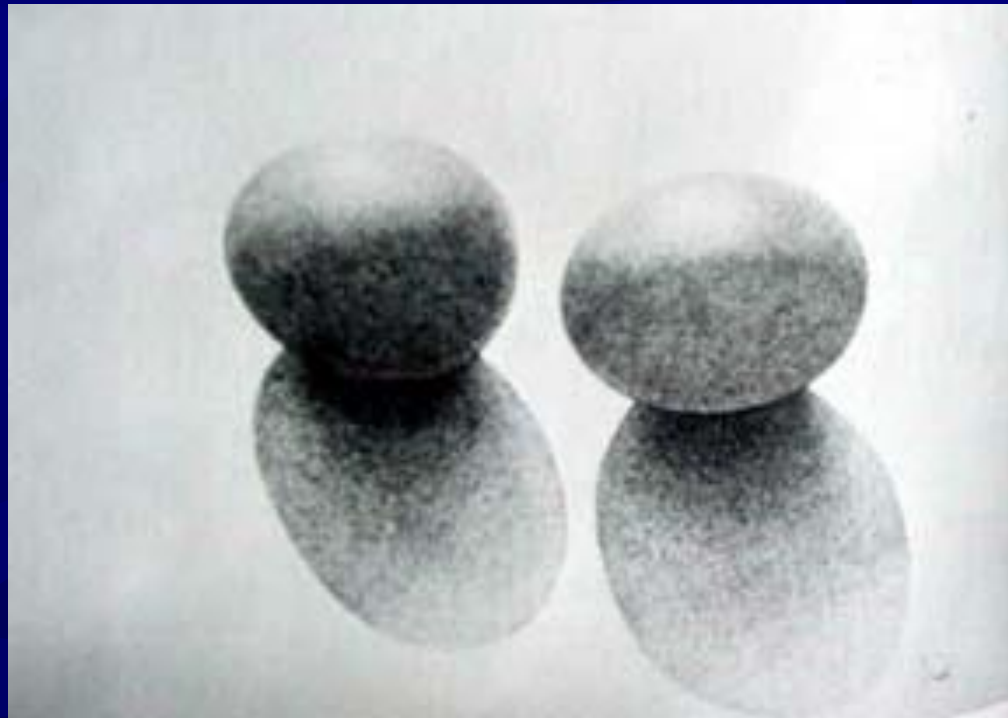
<u>Color</u>

Color can add interest and reality to artwork. The use of a 12-step color wheel will help us understand color more effectively. When light is reflected through a prism, colors can be seen
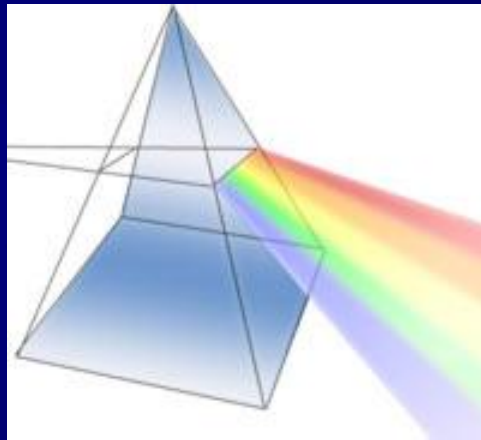
These colors are: <u>R</u>ed, <u>O</u>range, <u>Y</u>ellow, <u>G</u>reen, , <u>B</u>lue, <u>I</u>ndigo and <u>V</u>iolet

<u>Remember the anagram: ROY G BIV</u>

Color Wheel

A long time ago, artists decided that these colors would be more useful to them if they were placed in a wheel fashion. This became known as the color wheel
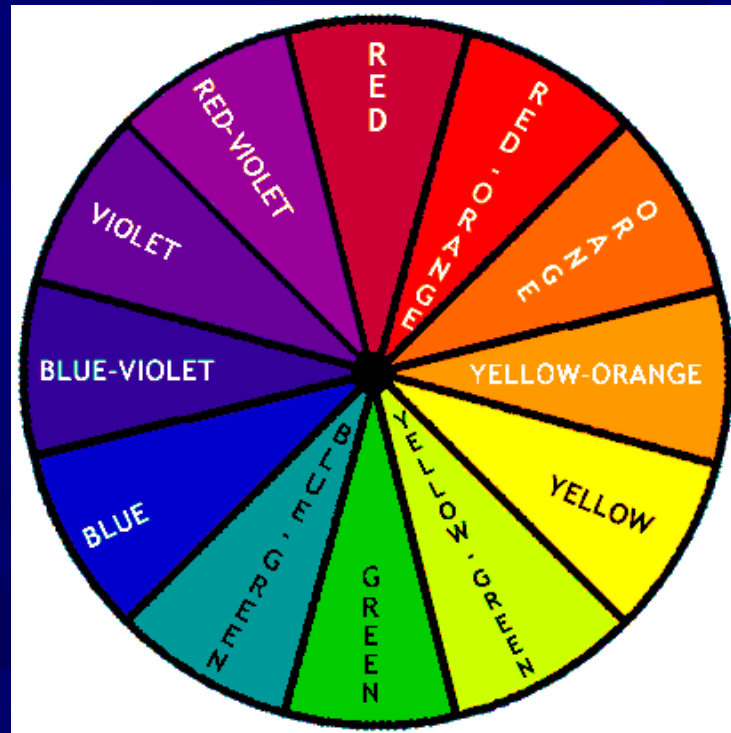
Color

There are 3 **primary** colors:
Red, Yellow and Blue

These colors are primary for 2 reasons:

1. They can't be mixed to be made
2. They make all the other colors on the color wheel

Color

When you mix 2 primary colors together, you get a secondary color. For example:

Red and Yellow=Orange
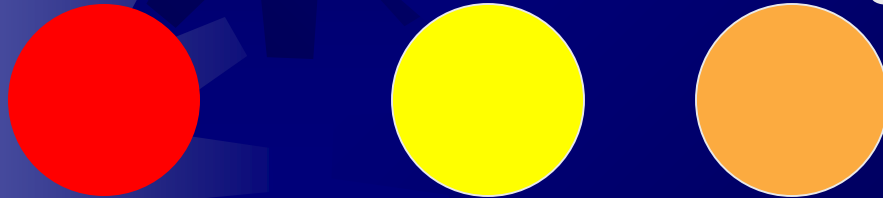
Red and Blue=Violet
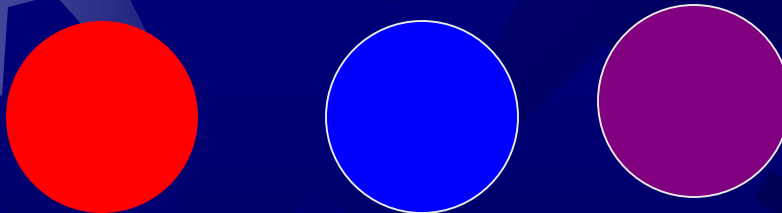
Yellow and Blue= Green
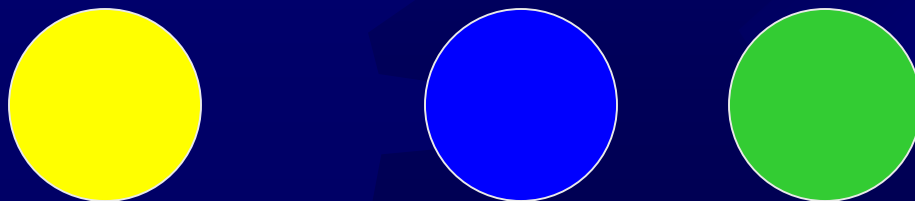
Color

When you mix a primary and a secondary color together you get an intermediate (or tertiary) color For example:

Red and Orange= Red-Orange

Yellow and Green=Yellow-Green

Blue and Green=Blue-Green

Red and Violet=Red-Violet

Yellow and Orange=Yellow-Orange

Blue and Violet=Blue-Violet

Color Schemes

Color is divided into groups based on the way they are placed on the color wheel:

3-4 colors "next-door-neighbors" to each other creates an **analogous color scheme**
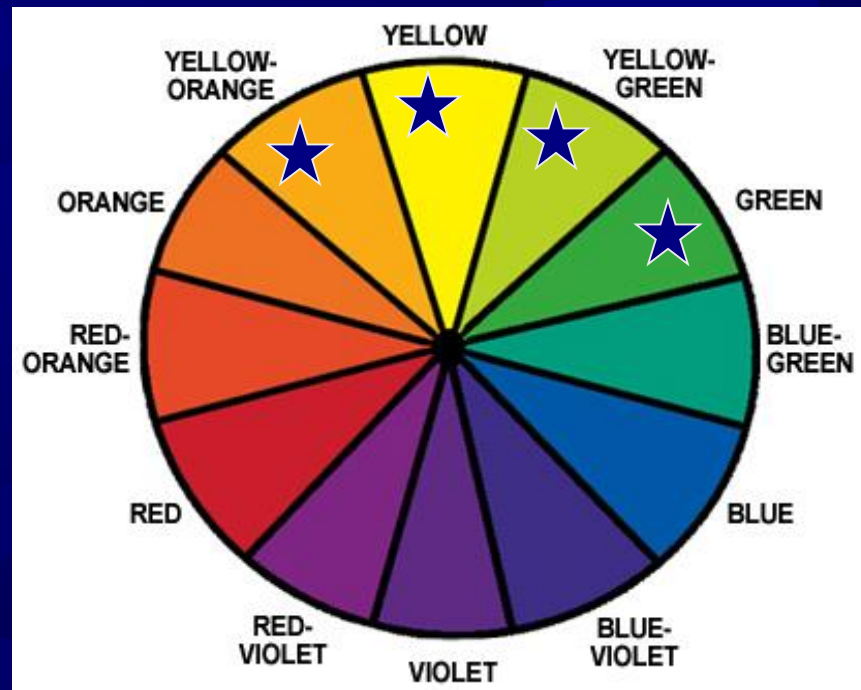
Color schemes

2 colors that are directly opposite each other (going across the center) creates a **complimentary color scheme**
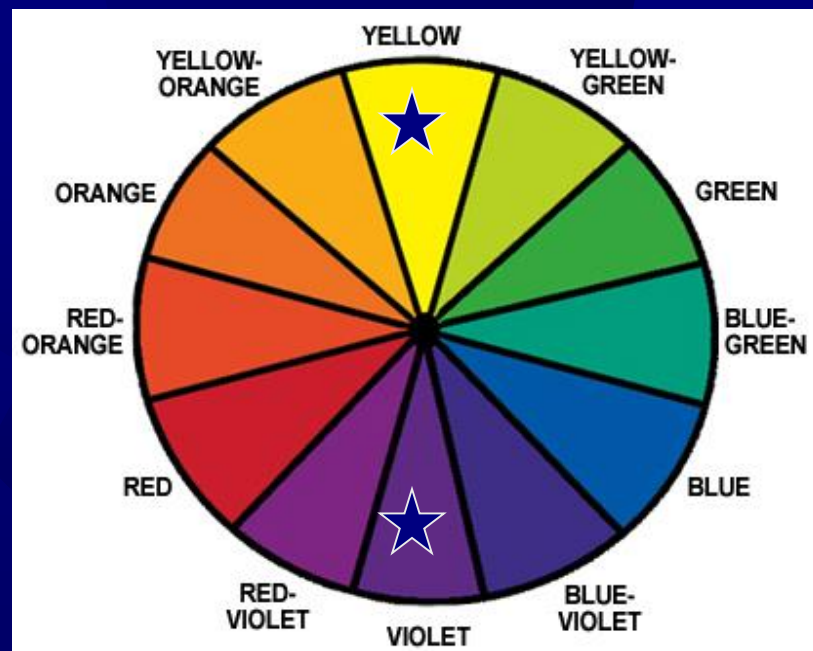
Color Schemes

A **Split-Complimentary color scheme** is a complimentary color and the two colors on either side of its compliment.
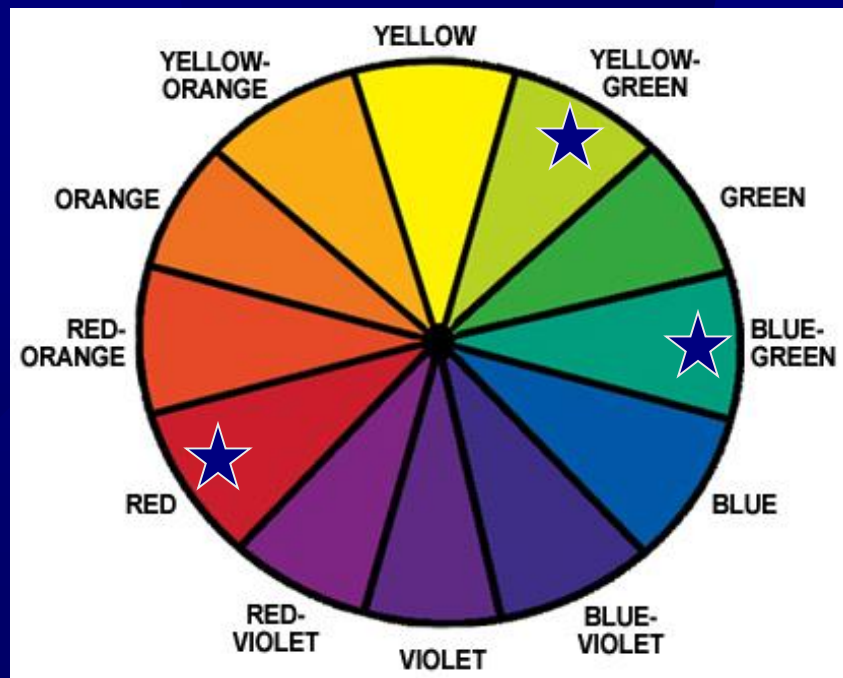
Color Schemes

A **Triadic color scheme** uses 3 colors that are equally spaced apart on the color wheel
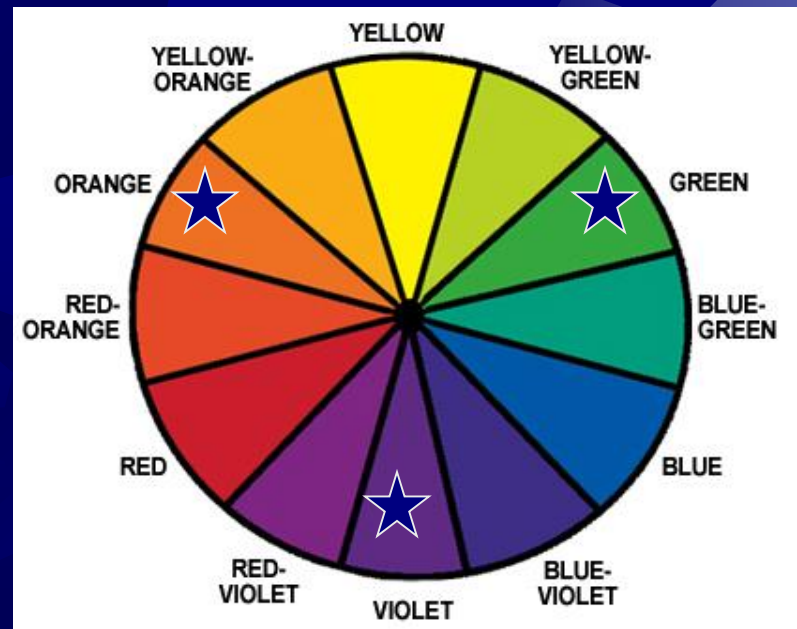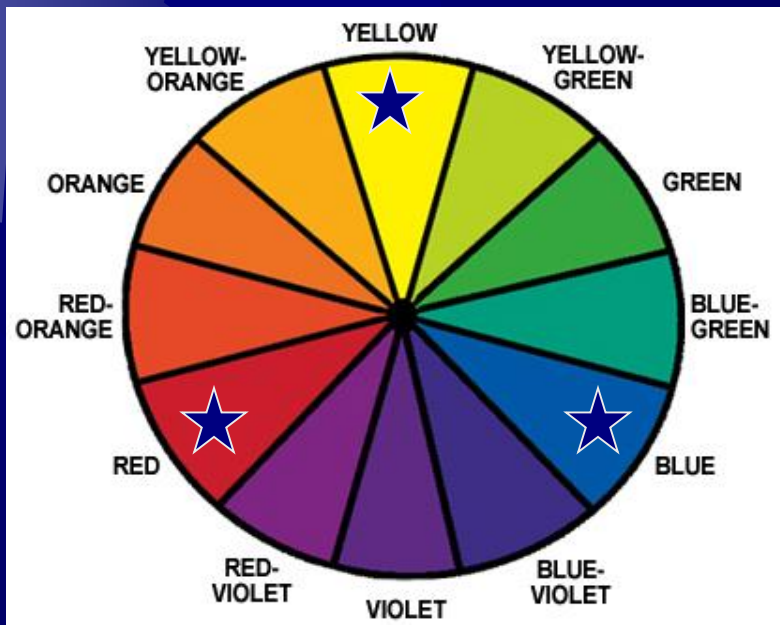
Color Schemes

When you use only one color plus its tints and shades, you are using a **monochromatic color scheme**

A **tint** is a color plus white
A **shade** is a color plus black

Colors have temperatures

Colors can convey emotion and feelings too.

Have your ever felt "blue?"

Been "green' with envy?

Called a "yellow" coward?

It is important that artists understand the effects of color when they are trying to get the viewers of their art to feel a particular way.

Color Temperatures

Warm colors are those that have Reds, Yellows and Oranges. Warm colors seem to advance (or come forward) in an artwork.

Cool colors are those that have Blues, Greens and Violets. Cool colors seem to recede (or go back into) an artwork.

Texture

Texture is the way the surface of an object actually feels.

In the artistic world, we refer to two types of texture---tactile and implied

Tactile (or Actual) Texture

Tactile (or Actual) Texture is the way the surface of an object actually feels. Examples would be sandpaper, cotton balls, tree bark, puppy fur, etc.

Implied Texture

Implied Texture is the way the surface of an object looks like it feels. This is the type of texture that artists use when they draw and paint. Textures may look rough, fuzzy, gritty, or scruffy, but can't actually be felt.
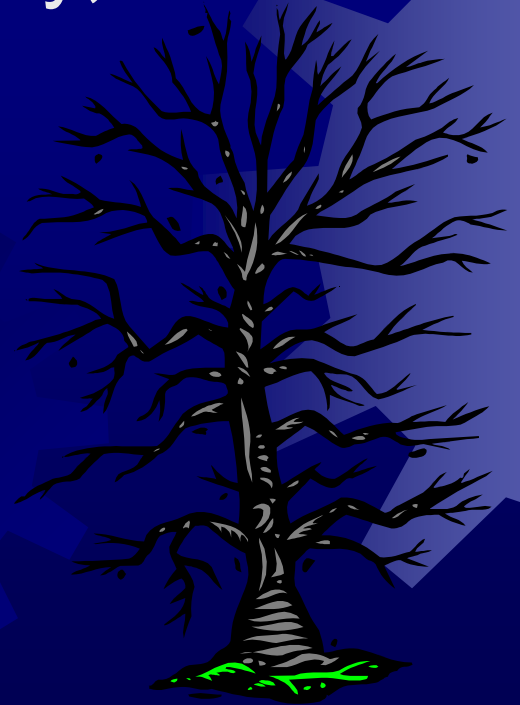
Space

Space is basically divided into 3 parts: **Foreground, Middle Ground and Background**

Generally, the **background** area is considered to be the upper 1/3 of the picture plane. The **middle ground** area is considered to be the middle 1/3 of the picture plane. The **foreground** area is considered to be the lower 1/3 of the picture plane.

<u>**Space**</u>

Space can be shallow or deep depending on what the artist wants to use. **<u>Shallow space</u>** is used when the artist has objects very close to the viewer.

Space

Deep Space
may show
objects up
close but
objects are
shown far
away
too.

Space

Positive and Negative space is a way that an artwork is divided. When planning a work of art, both areas must be examined so that they balance one another. Drawing items running off the page and zooming in on objects are ways to create visual interest within a work.

Space

Positive space is the actual object(s) within the artwork

Negative Space is the area in and around the objects. It is the "background" and it contributes to the work of art---you can't have positive space without negative space

Space

Perspective is also a way of showing space in a work of art. **Perspective** is when the artist uses a vanishing point on the horizon and then creates a sense of deep space by showing objects getting progressively smaller as they get closer to the vanishing point.

Space

Objects may **overlap** as well. When objects are overlapped it is obvious that enough space had to be in the picture to contain all the objects that have been included

The Elements of Art in Review

The Elements of Art are the "tools" that artists use to make art. They are the basic "foundation" of a good composition

Line   **Value**   **Texture**

Shape   **Form**   **Space**   **Color**