

Color Wheel Lesson

2 (45 minute) classes required

Project Description: Colors have expressive qualities. Artists select color for their effect. Bright or warm colors convey a feeling of happiness. Cool colors produce feelings of sadness and pessimism. Colors can also have symbolic significance and suggest abstract qualities. This project will introduce students to the theory of color with a hands-on experience.

Project Rationale: Students should be exposed to the vocabulary associated with the color wheel and color theory, as these are the foundation for an understanding of art.

Objectives:

1. Students will learn about the expressive qualities of color
2. Students will learn the primary colors
3. Students will mix secondary and tertiary colors from primary colors
4. Students will learn about complementary and analogous colors
5. Students will draw their own color wheel

Materials:

Pencil
Circle templates
Ruler
Fine point black marker
Colored pencils/crayons/markers

Procedure:

Day 1

Students will be shown a color wheel and vocabulary terms will be introduced. Students will draw their own color wheel on paper using pencil first and outlining with the black marker. Students will write the names of the colors on their wheel.

Day 2

Students will begin coloring their color wheel. They will divide their circle into six sections. They will choose one of the three mediums provided to them (colored pencil, markers and crayons. Older students will have the option for and will be encouraged to use paint.)

Vocabulary:

Achromatic - free of color

Analogous - hues that are next to one another on the color wheel

Chromatic - having color

Complementary - the colors opposite to each other on the color wheel

Cool - the colors on the green-blue side of the color wheel

Hue - another word for color

Monochromatic - having one color

Polychromatic - having many colors

Primary Colors - red, blue and yellow

Secondary Colors - orange, green and purple. Are created by mixing primary colors

Symmetry - similarity on both sides of a dividing line.

Tertiary Colors - are created by mixing primary colors with secondary colors.

Warm - the colors on the yellow-orange-red side of the color wheel