

Student: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Beginning Drawing: Color Quiz Study Guide

Color is an element of art that is derived from reflected light, the sensation of color is aroused in the brain by the response of the brain to different wavelengths of light.

The 3 parts of color are

- Hue:** color name
- Saturation:** Brightness or intensity (very saturated color is medium key color)
- Value:** relative lightness or darkness of a color (also called high and low color keys)

Color **key** refers to the base value and saturation of a color – it is best to use a combination of color keys

- High color key – light value
- Medium color key – these are the pure saturations
- Low color key – dark value

A light value, or high color key, is called a **tint**

A color mixed with gray is called a **tone**

A color mixed with black is called a **shade**

Organizing color

Visual artists organize color into relationships on a **color wheel**.

Analogous colors are neighbors on the color wheel

Color complements are those are opposites on the color wheel

Perception and color

Colors that are further from the viewer may be more neutral, lighter or darker than those in the foreground of the image.

Atmospheric perspective is created when the dust and moisture in the air change the background colors to a lighter, more neutral key.

A color mixed with a complement will become more neutral, the intensity of the color decreases.

Adding varying amounts of **complements** changes the key of a color and makes it more neutral. The 3 main sets of color complements are,

- Red/green
- Yellow/purple
- Blue/orange

A 5 to 1 color split means that the colors are split on the dominant side of the complementary color. If the complement set is red and green, and green is the dominant color, the split colors would be.

Blue + blue/green + green + yellow/green + yellow

The analogous colors to orange are:

Yellow Orange/yellow **Orange** Orange/red Red

It is best to gradually layer colors when attempting to blend. Keep your pencils SHARP