Color Theory and the Three Elements of Color

Activity Time: 30 min

Understanding color basics

1. Three Elements to Color

- Hue, Value and Saturation
- Understand and utilize each element

2. Basic Color Wheel: Primary, Secondary and Intermediate Colors

- Color Wheel showing basic 12 step hue scale. This is a hue chart showing each hue at its most intense saturation

3. Making Secondary from primary colors

All colors of the color wheel can be made by mixing primary colors. Primary colors must be exact in hue

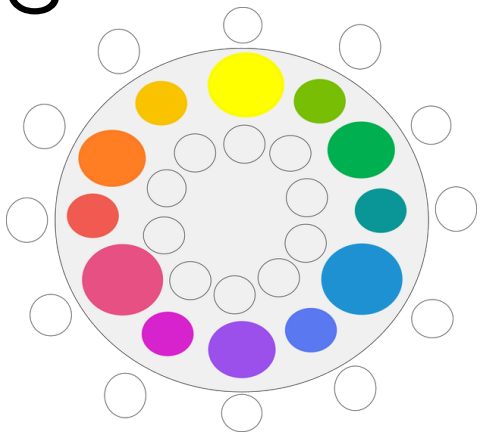
4. Tints and Shades

By adding white to a color a lighter color can be created. This is called a tint. By adding shades of gray, shades can be created

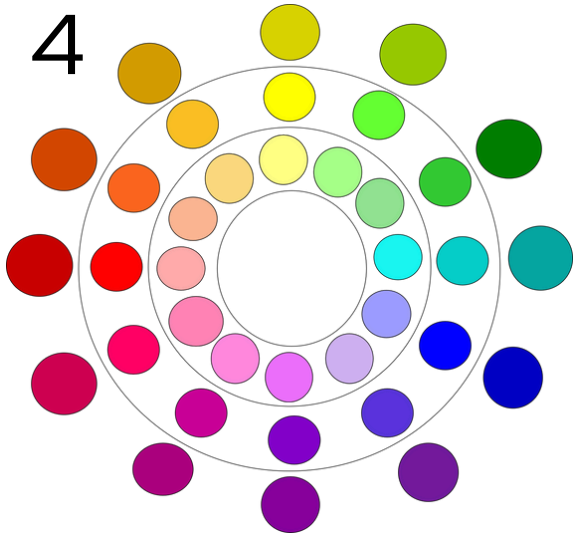
1

2

3

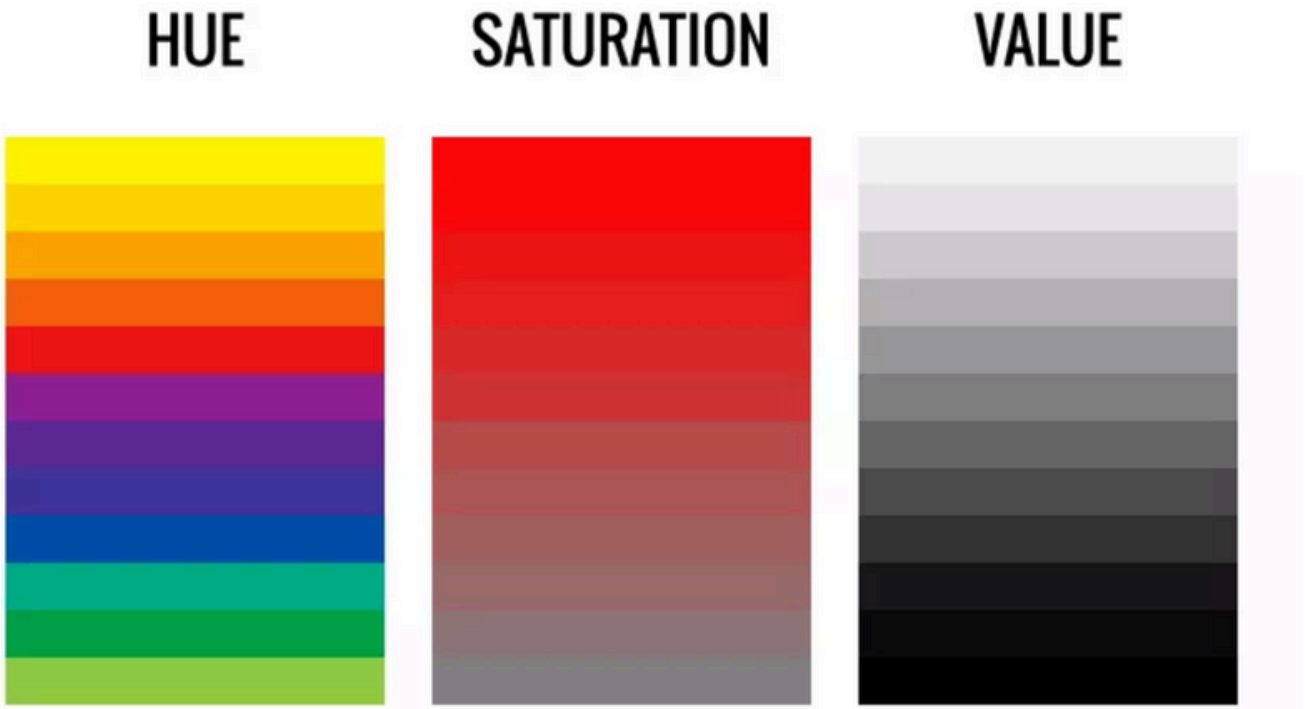


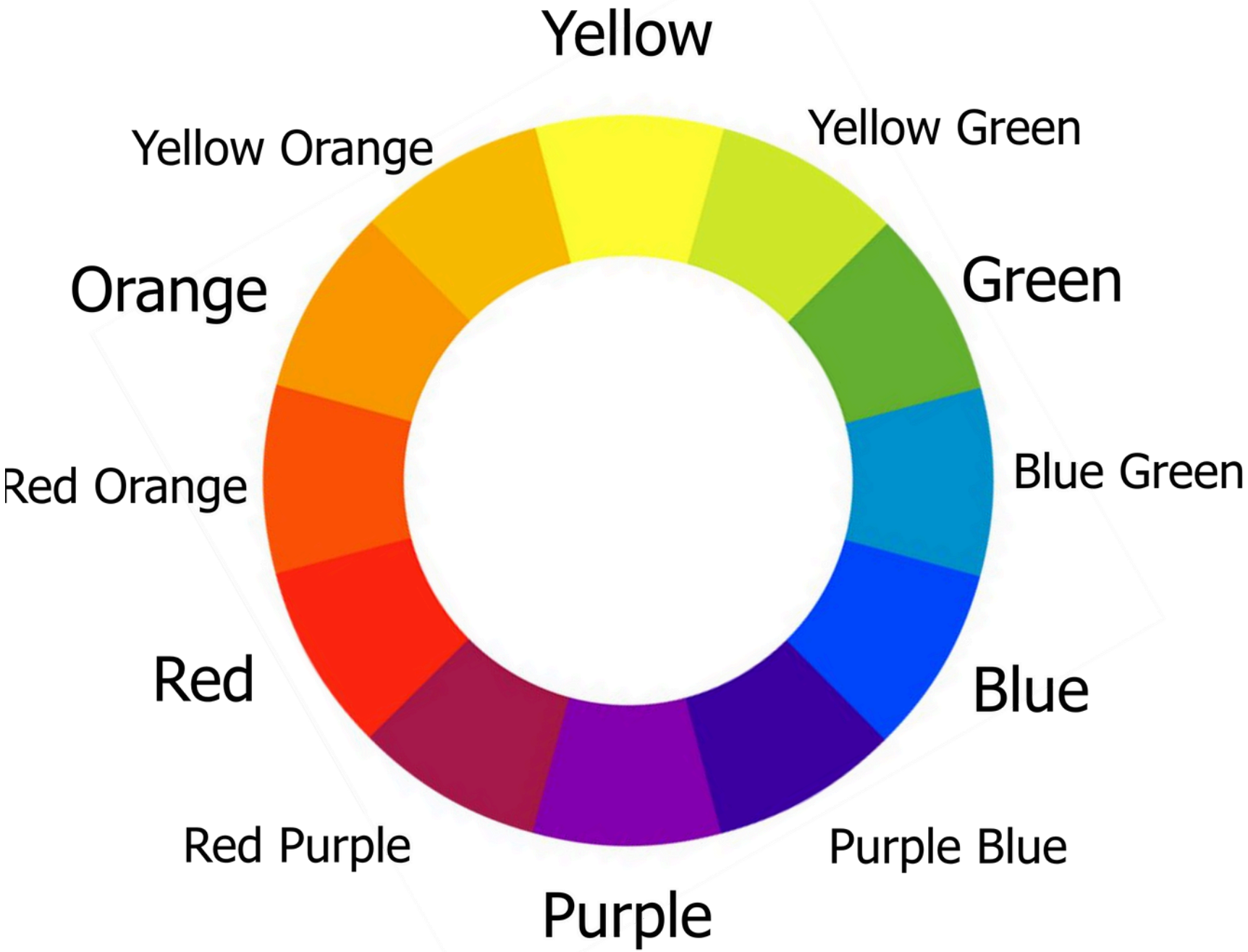
4

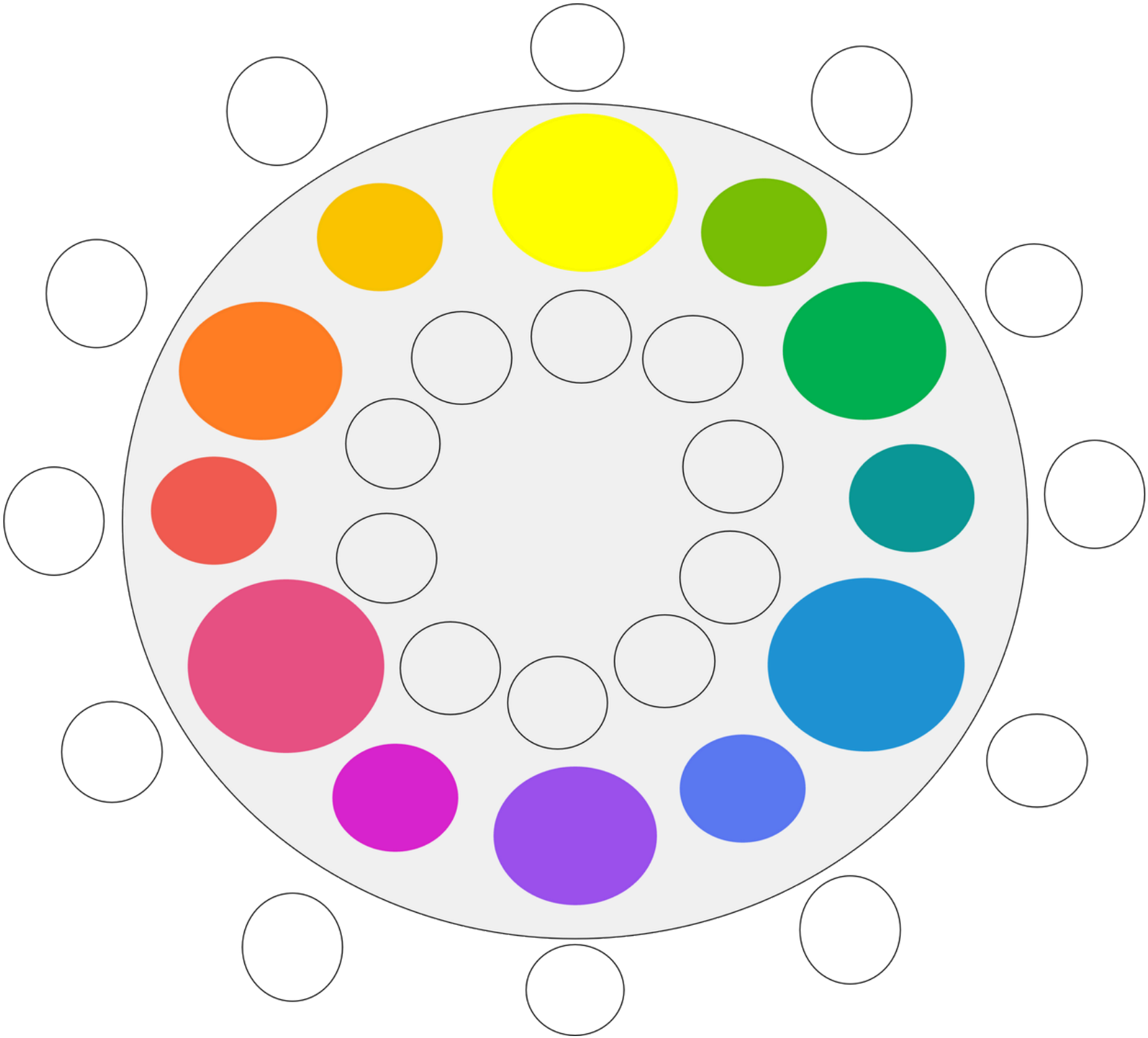


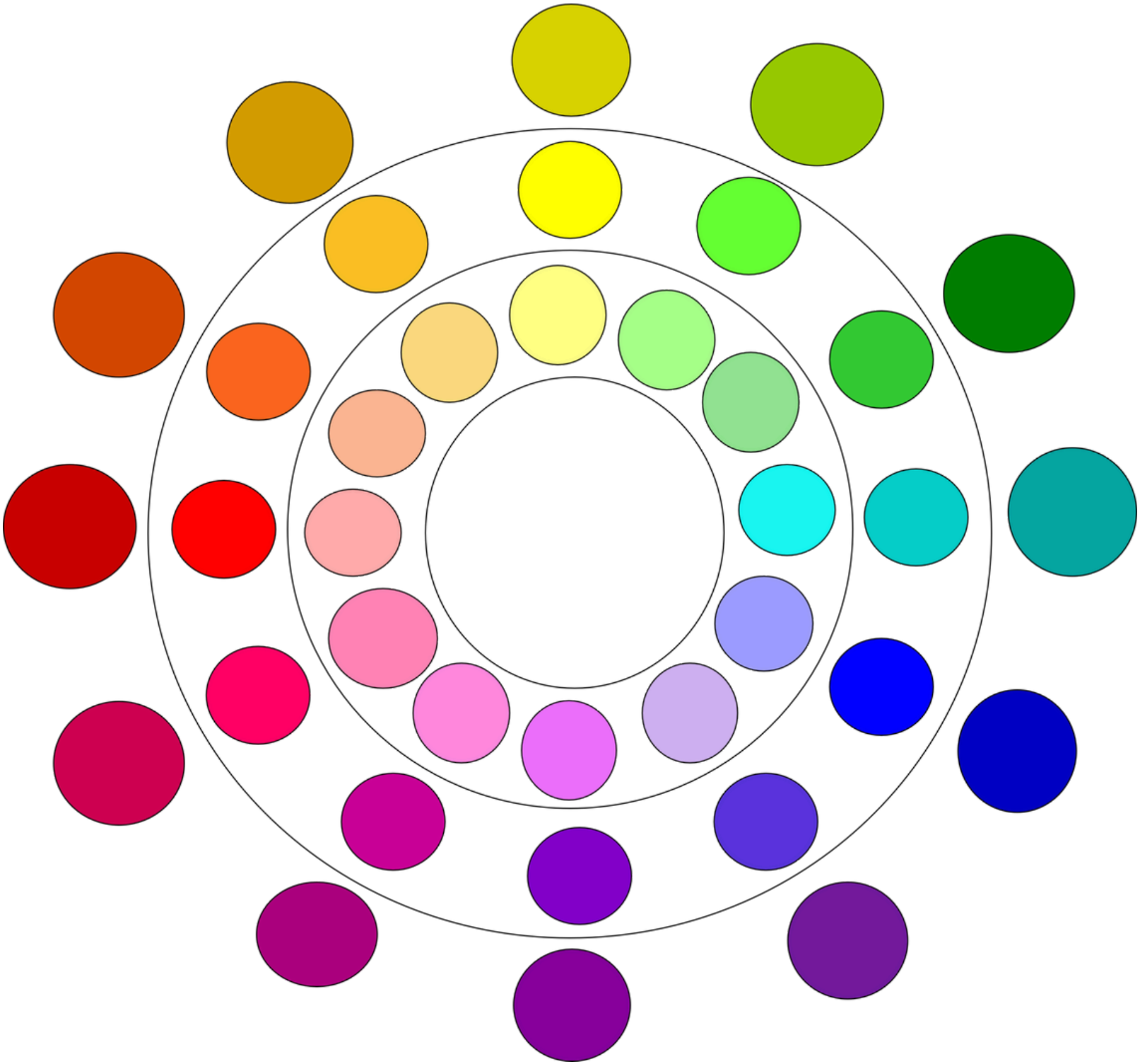
Three Elements of Color

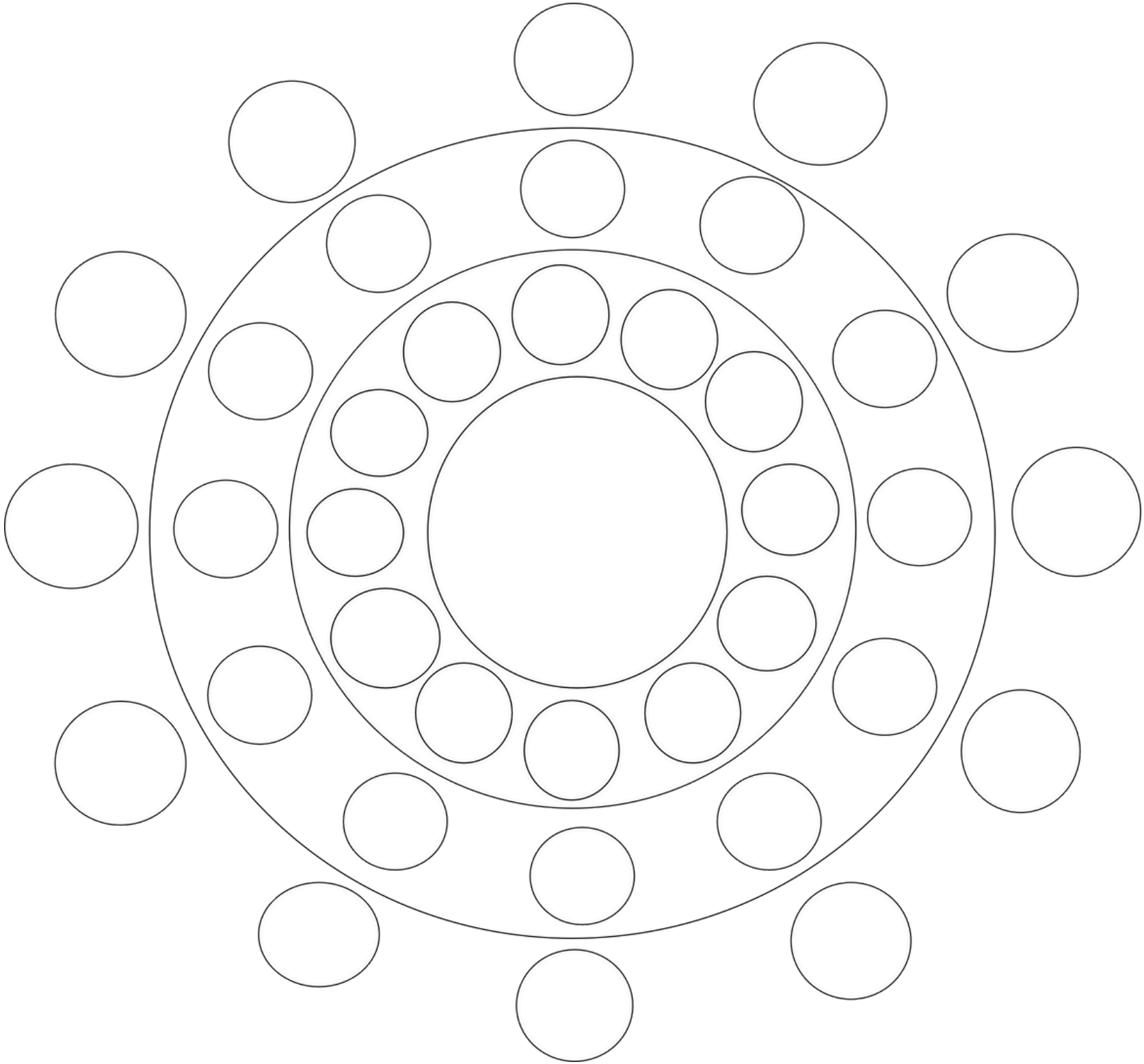
Three Problems to Solve in the mixing and application process




Yellow
Yellow Green
Yellow Orange
Green
Orange
Blue Green
Red Orange
Blue
Red
Purple Blue
Red Purple
Purple







Color Theory: Pigments

Activity Time: 30 min

Pigment Primaries

1. Pigments

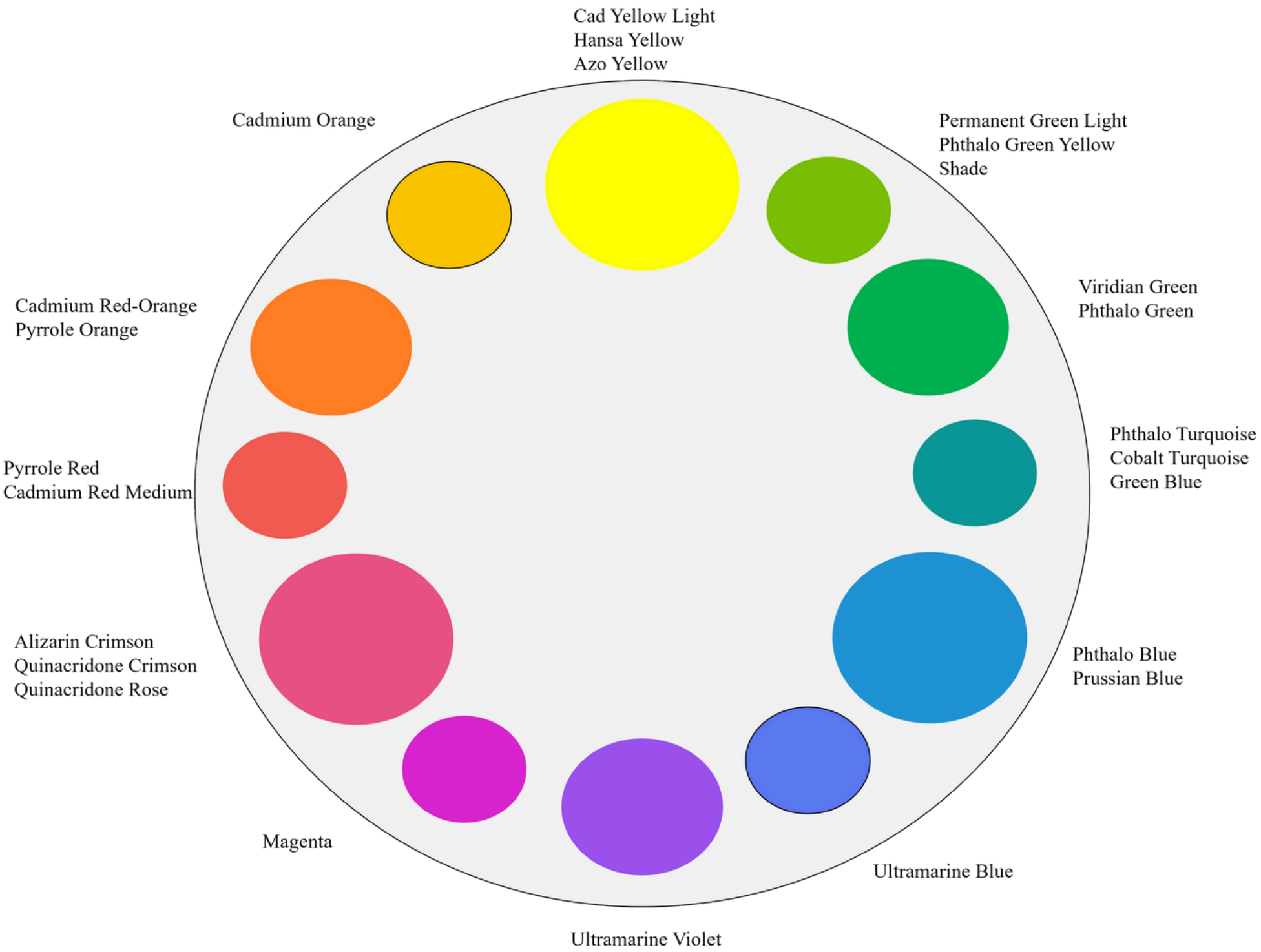
- Pigments come in various hues, values and saturations
- Over time you become acquainted with their names and use based on hue, value and saturation.

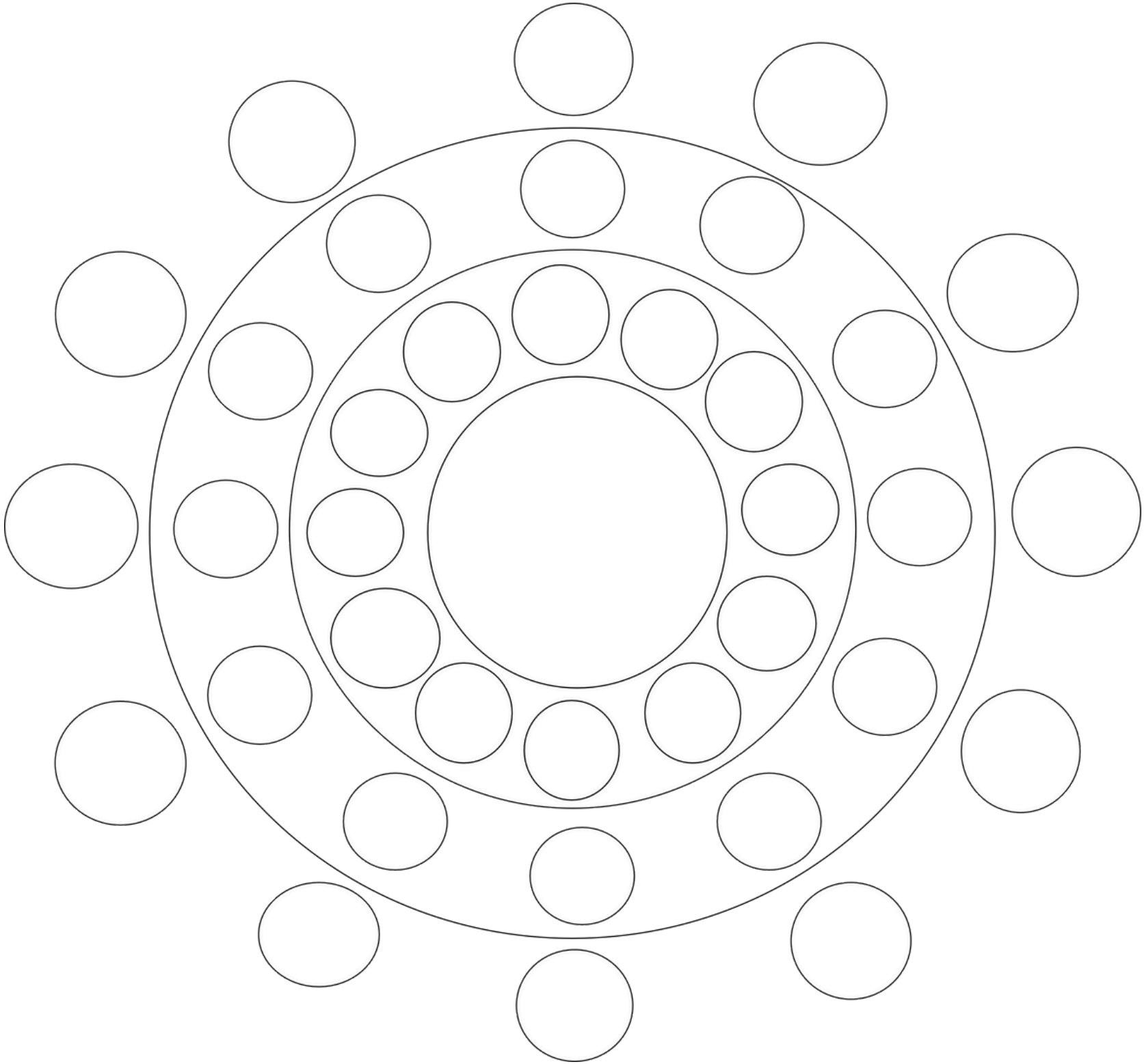
2. Pigment primaries

- Like your inkjet printer at home the three primaries must be formulated work together to create a large range of colors. This is called the color gamut

3. Practice Creating Secondary colors from the primary colors

- Using the chart below paint in the primary colors and mix the secondary colors from the primary
- Add white to create tints and black to create shades


Cad Yellow Light
Hansa Yellow
Azo Yellow
Cadmium Orange
Permanent Green Light
Phthalo Green Yellow
Shade
Cadmium Red-Orange
Pyrrole Orange
Viridian Green
Phthalo Green
Pyrrole Red
Cadmium Red Medium
Phthalo Turquoise
Cobalt Turquoise
Green Blue
Alizarin Crimson
Quinacridone Crimson
Quinacridone Rose
Phthalo Blue
Prussian Blue
Magenta
Ultramarine Blue
Ultramarine Violet



Color Theory: Munsel Color System

Activity Time: 30 min

Mapping hue, saturation and value

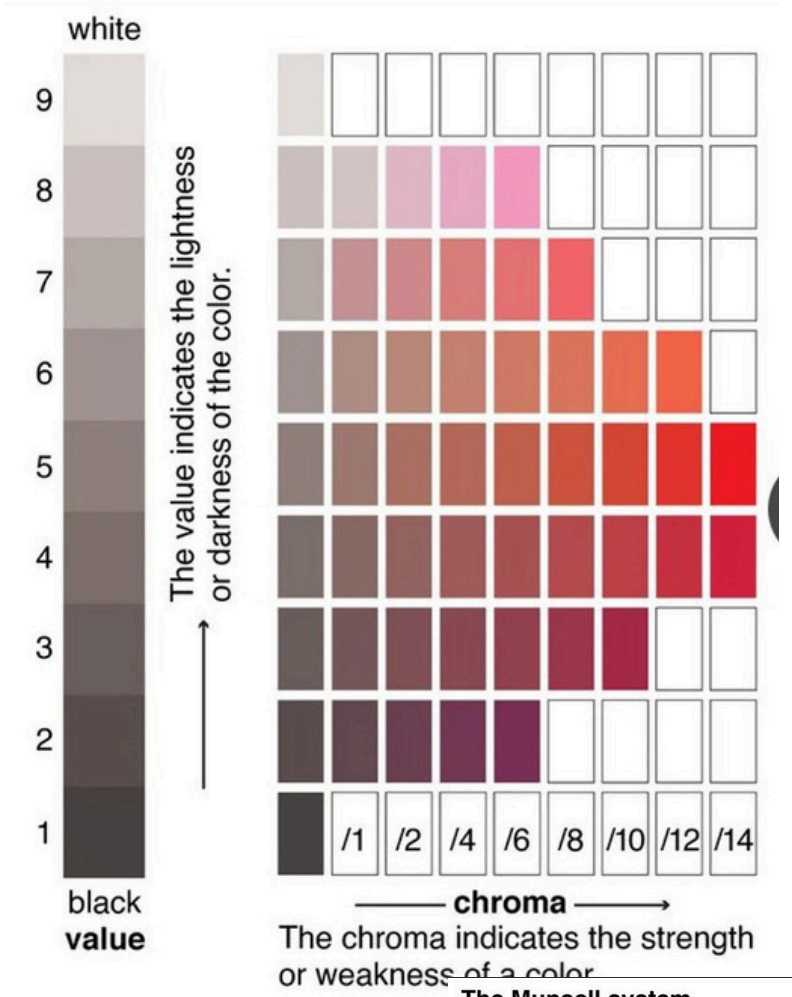
Munsel system

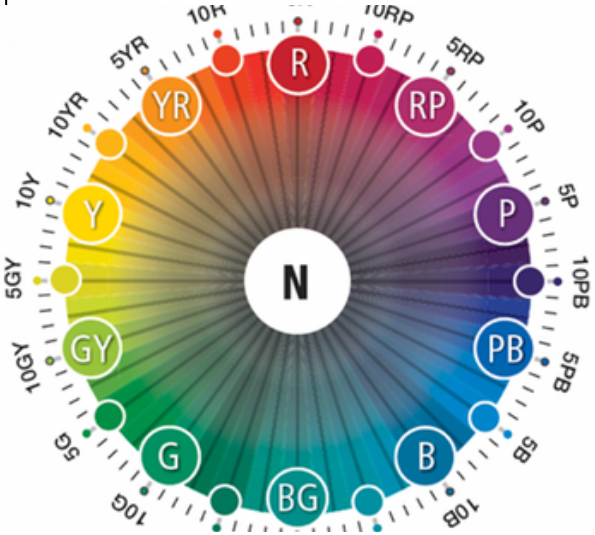
- Identifies relationship between the main elements within a color. Hue, saturation and value

Vertical scale equals value

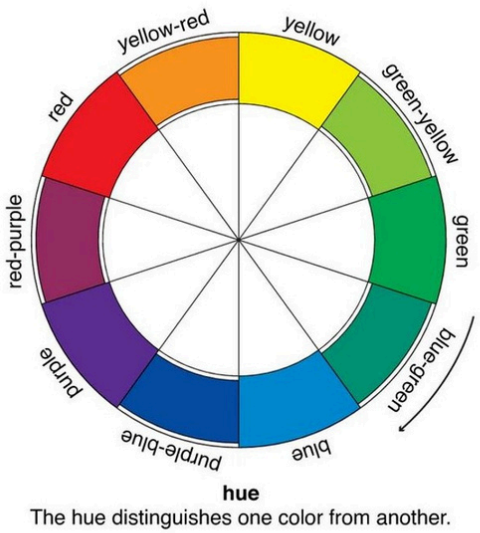
Horizontal scale equals saturation

Each scale works off one of 10 hues that are complementary to the color directly opposite on the color wheel



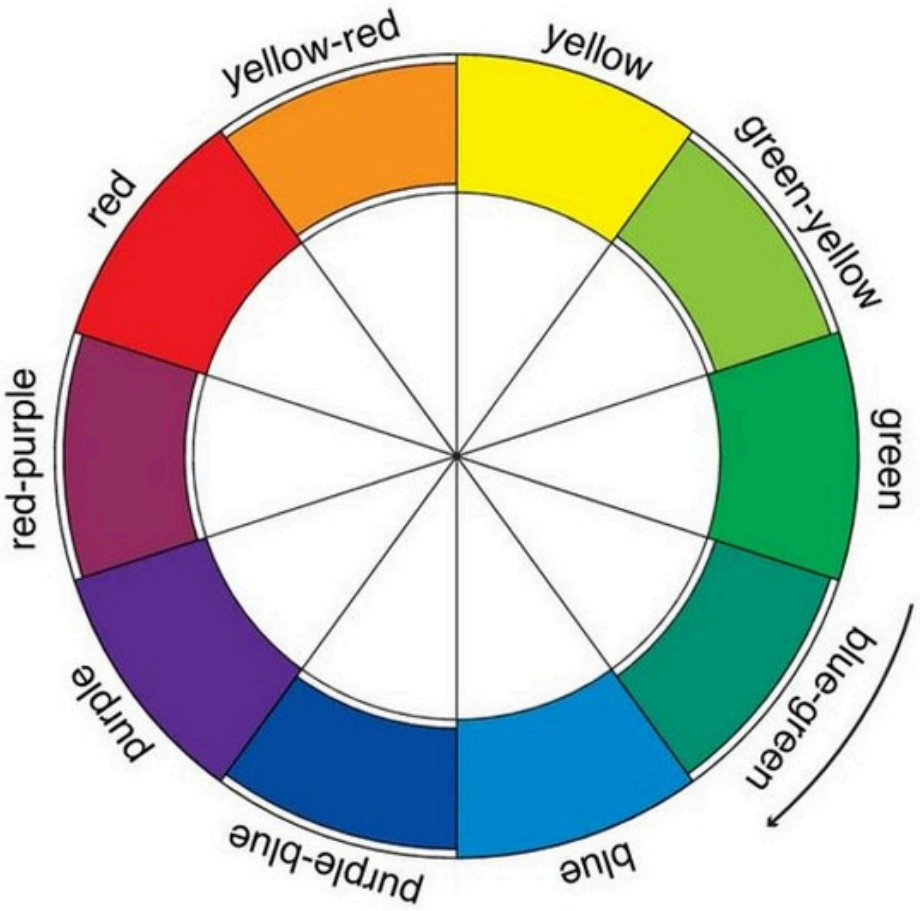


The Munsell system



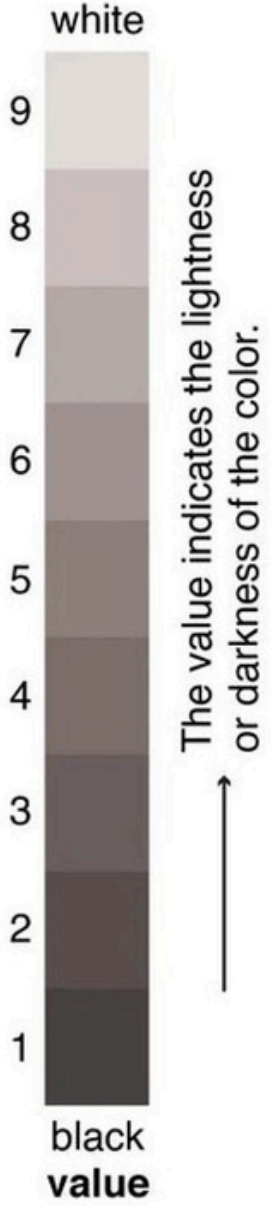
The hue distinguishes one color from another.

The Munsell system

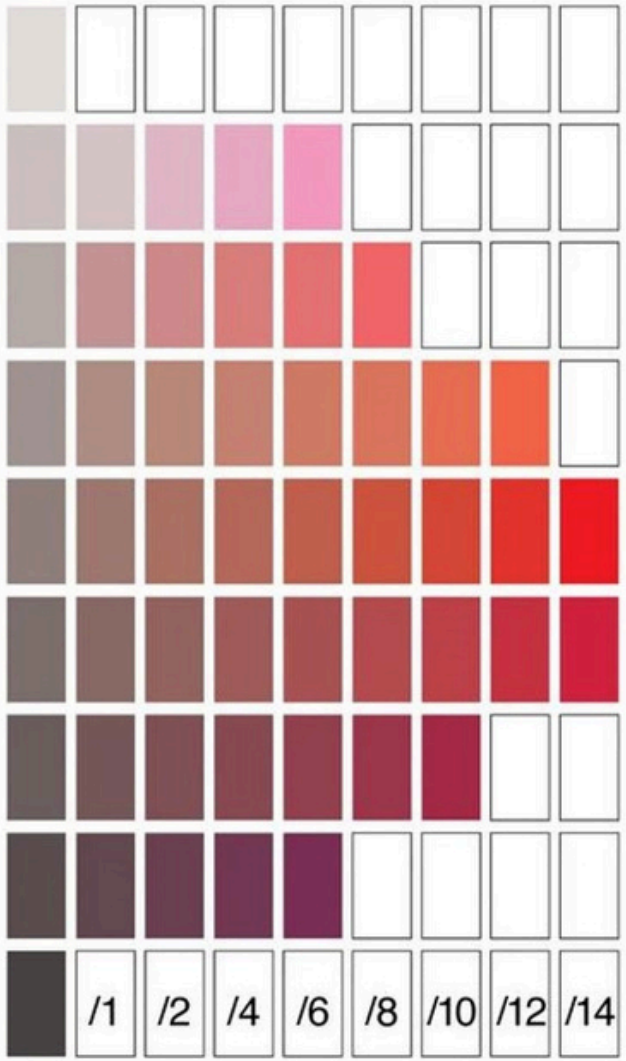


hue

The hue distinguishes one color from another.



The value indicates the lightness or darkness of the color.



The chroma indicates the strength or weakness of a color.

Color Theory: Desaturate colors with complementary

Activity Time: 30 min

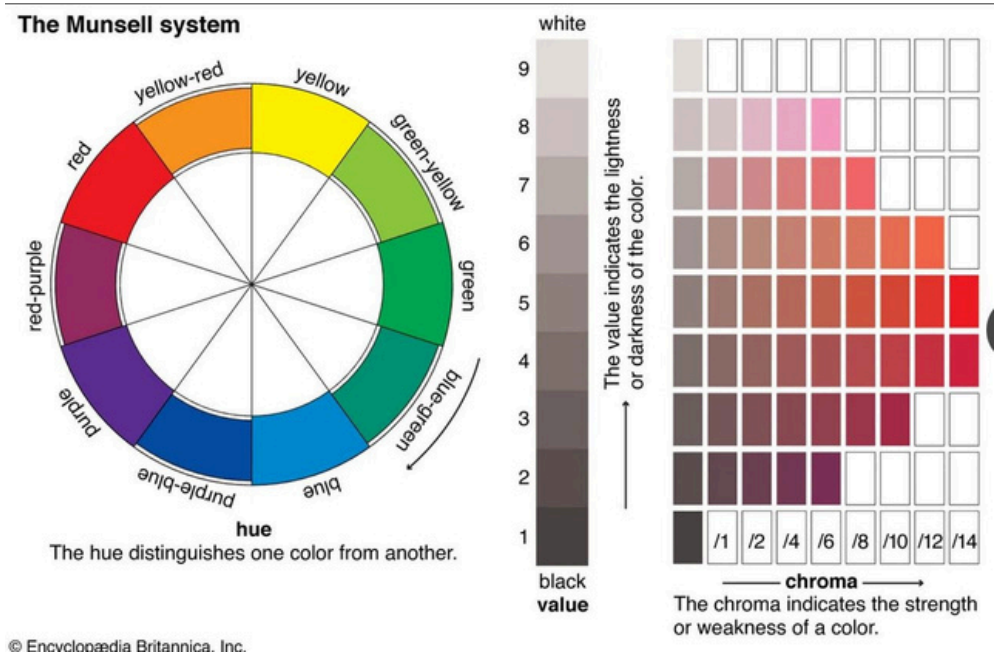
Pigment Primaries

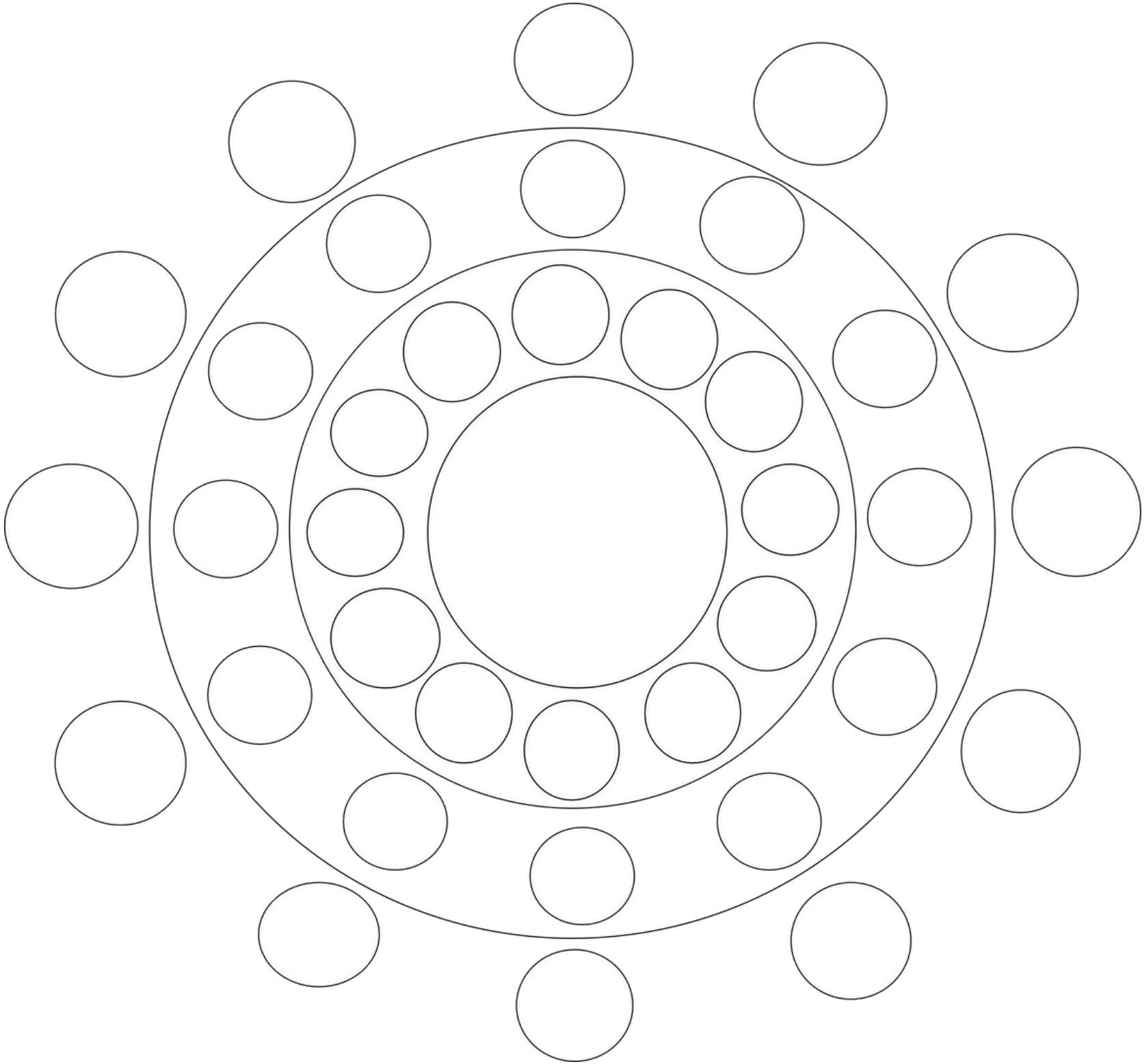
Paint in primary and secondary colors.

- Start with the three basic primary colors pint in circles
- Mix and paint secondary colors and paint in outer circle.

2. Mixing complements to desaturate a color

- Mix start with the warm side of the wheel and pick one color. Using its complement mix into the original color a little paint to desaturate the color. Paint in the second circle. Add a little more complement and paint into the third square showing greater desaturation.





Color matching and creating a color scheme

Activity Time: 30 min

Creating a color scheme and sketch

Assess if image is dominantly warm or cool

- Look over photo and decide what set of colors dominant the image. Either cool or warm.

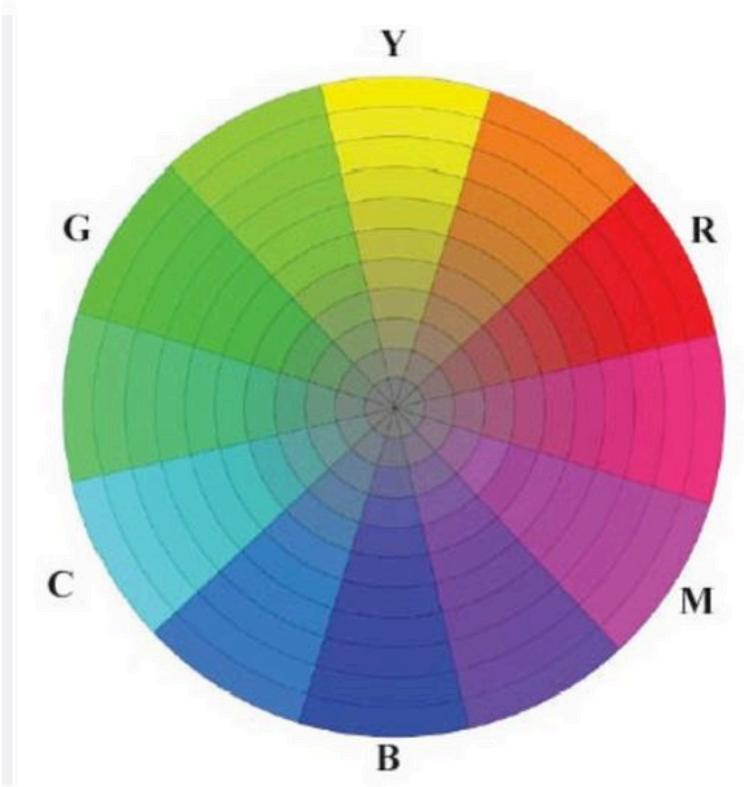
What color from the color wheel matches the most dominant color of either the warm or cool color group

- Look for a color that is apparent and is biased or mixed in other colors of the dominant group

What is the dominant color complementary on the opposite side of the wheel

- Choose one color from the color wheel that is most dominant and find its complementary on the subtractive color wheel.
- Two steps removed from the dominant color are possible accent colors you can use in your color scheme.

Identify dominant color, complementary color, and two accent colors



Choosing pigments and setting up your palette

Activity Time: 30 min

Set up palette colors from chosen color scheme

Enough by not too many colors

- Primary colors with two desaturated colors
- White, Yellow medium or light, Yellow Ochre, Cad Red,Burnt Sienna Rose or Majenta, Thalo Blue, Black

Mix a 6 value scale in black and white on the right side of the palette with black at the top.

Mix a three value pile of paint for each color. One underneath the other

- one medium dark, one middle value and one light value
- Dont mix for Yellow Light.

WINSOR & NEWTON
WINTON
OIL COLOUR
van Gogh
OIL COLOUR
200 ml e
6.75 US fl oz
R
G
M

Y
G
R
C
M
B

Blocking in the base colors to begin a painting

Using a three value system for blocking in color

Transfer image to canvas paper.
Redraw lines to make dark

Step 1. Block in middle tone area. Vary color within the dominant color hue group

Step 2. Block in light value colors.

Step 3. Block in dark color values.

Choosing reference for your painting

Activity Time: 30 min

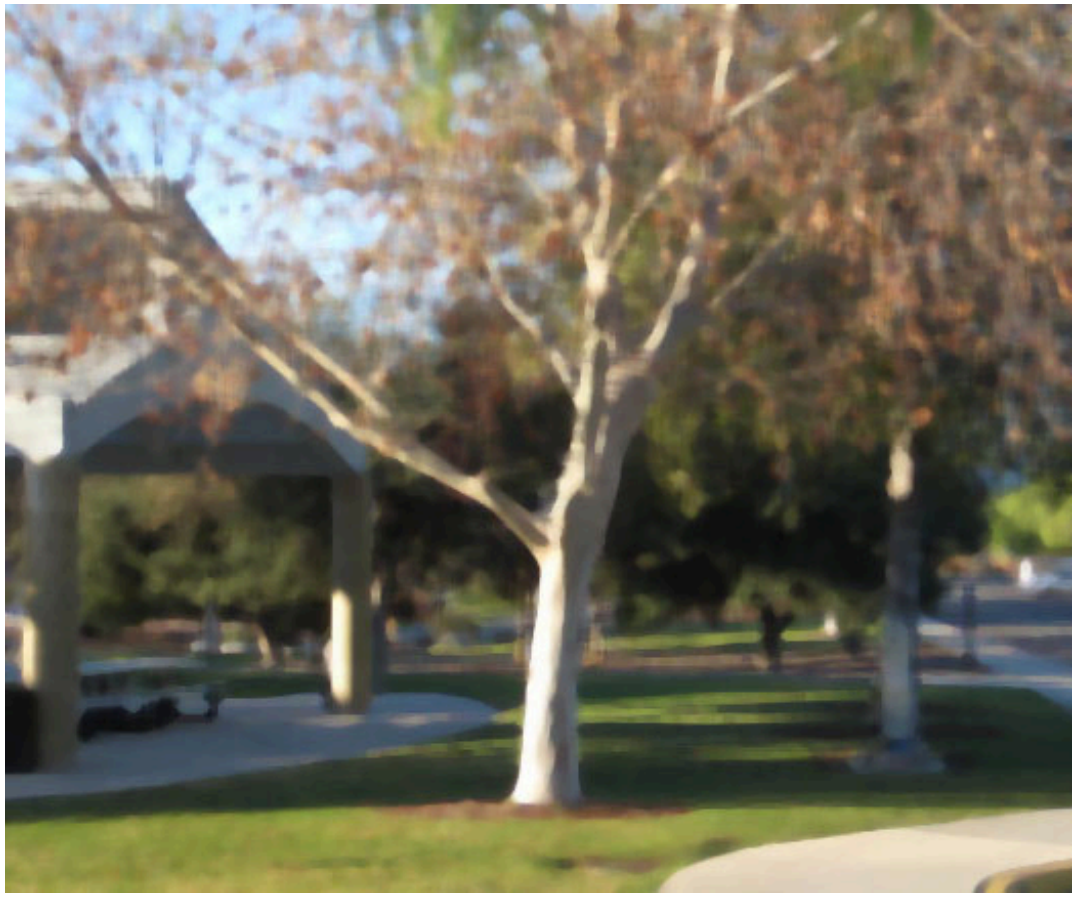
What to look for in a photo

Large to small shapes

- Start with the three basic primary colors pint in circles
- Mix and paint secondary colors and paint in outer circle.

Center of interest

- Mix start with the warm side of the wheel and pick one color. Using its complement mix into the original color a little paint to desaturate the color. Paint in the second circle. Add a little more complement and paint into the third square showing greater desaturation.
-

Light to dark large shapes

- Start with the three basic primary colors pint in circles
- Mix and paint secondary colors and paint in outer circle.