

## K.I.—Colour Theory

**Primary** Colours: **Red, Blue and Yellow** are the three primary colours.

**Secondary** Colours: These are produced by mixing two primary colours

- Red + Yellow will give us **Orange**
- Blue + Red will give us **Violet**
- Yellow + Blue will give us **Green**

**Tertiary** Colours: These are produced by mixing a secondary colour with primary colour.

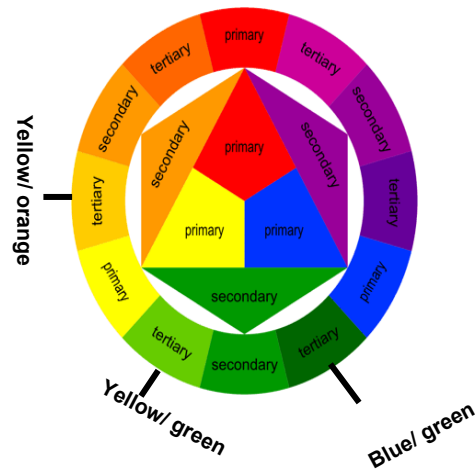
e.g.

- Yellow + orange gives the tertiary colour **Yellow/ Orange**
- Red + Violet gives the tertiary colour **Red/ Violet**
- Blue + green gives the tertiary colour **Blue/ Green**

Colours which are close to or next to each other on the colour wheel are said to be in **harmony**. They **harmonise** with each other. They are **harmonious**.

Colours which are opposite to each other on the colour wheel are said to be **complimentary**. They are **contrasting colours**.

## The Colour Wheel



### Colours and Moods

**Red:** warm, exciting, dangerous, passionate

**Orange:** warm, happy, sunny

**Yellow:** warm, happy, cheerful, bright, sparkling

**Green:** cool, restful, fresh, calm, natural, quiet

**Blue:** cool, elegant, sophisticated

**Purple:** rich, pompous, regal

Neutrals: **Greys**—natural, restful, elegant; **Browns** - natural, earthy, safe

**Black and white:** dramatic, elegant, stylish, sophisticated

**Warm Colours** such as reds, yellows and oranges are also known as **ADVANCING COLOURS** because they appear to be closer to the viewer than other colours. **A room painted in these colours would seem warm, but also feel smaller because warm colours make the walls look closer.**

**Cool Colours** such as blues, greens and violets have exactly the opposite effect. They appear to be further away, and are also known as **RECEDING COLOURS**. **A room painted in these colours would appear cold, but also feel bigger as these colours make the walls look more distant.**

**Tone**—this term describes lighter or darker versions of the same colour:



**Tint:** a lighter tone is a **tint** - (a colour mixed with white)

**Shade:** a darker tone is called a **shade** - (a colour mixed with black)