

# Artists IN FOCUS

Color & Impressionistic Art



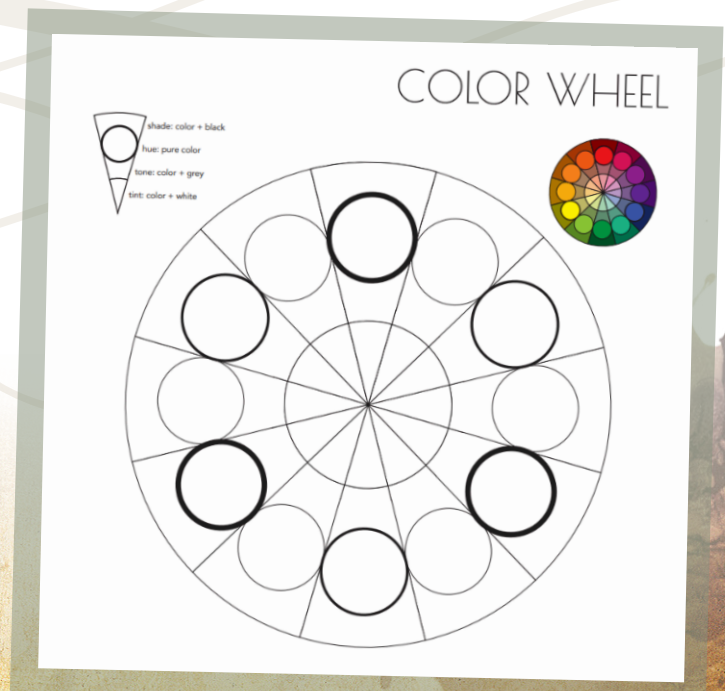
## What We Learned:

- Impressionist artists employed color to evoke feeling and impressions in their art.
- White light is made up of rays of varying wavelengths. The colors of the spectrum are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.
- Hue is the name of a color.
- The primary colors are red, yellow, and blue. Secondary colors are made by mixing two primary colors. The secondary colors are orange, green and violet.
- When a primary color and a secondary color adjacent to it on the color wheel are combined the new color belongs to a group called intermediate or tertiary colors.
- A color scheme is a set of colors that work well together because of their relationship to one another on the color wheel.
- Adding varying amounts of black to a color alters the color's shade.
- Adding varying amounts of white to a color alters the color's tint.



## Art Activity: *Color Wheel*

The students completed the color wheel using only the primary colors—red, yellow, and blue—along with black and white paint. Colors were mixed to create secondary colors and tertiary colors. White was added to each color to alter the color's tint. Black was added to each color to alter the color's shade.





# Book Nook

*Special Subjects: Basic Color Theory*  
By Patti Mollica



## For Parents

Impressionist artists used strong and bold colors. Claude Monet often used complementary colors (those opposite on the color wheel) in his paintings since these colors intensely contrast one another. When colors were mixed, they produced darker versions of the colors used to show depth and create shadows. Berthe Morisot used a lot of white in her paintings to capture soft, diffused light. Artists would also overlap colors and use color tints to create their impressionistic masterpieces.

Since color is one of the basic elements of art and is so important when talking about Impressionist paintings, the middle school students focused entirely on color, which will help them in looking at and creating works of art.

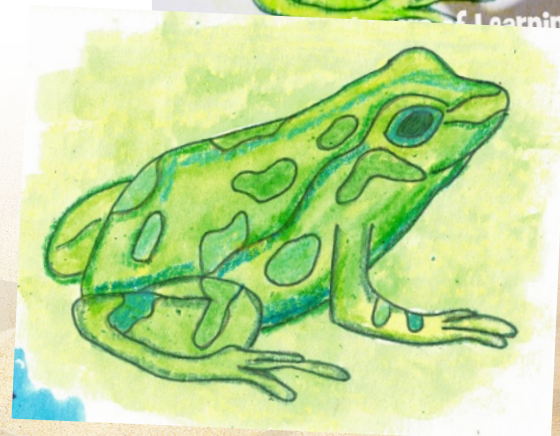
## Connections at Home: Analogous Color Project

### MATERIALS:

- Art Paper
- Lots of crayons
- Watercolor paints

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Choose a color that you want to have as the focus for your picture. You'll be using a monochromatic color scheme, which means you'll only be using one color. Gather all the crayons of that one hue that you can find.
2. Draw a simple picture of one item.
3. Use various tints and shades of your color to outline and color some of the drawing, but also leave white space in areas. You want to leave some room for the paint.





# Connections at Home:

## Flowers in Complementary Colors

### MATERIALS:

- White art paper
- Cardstock paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Crayons or pastels

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Draw large flowers on the white paper.
2. Cut the picture into 3 pieces.
3. Color each piece using a pair of complementary colors.
4. Reassemble the pieces and glue to a cardstock background.



## Additional Resources

To learn more about color and Impressionism, click on the links below:

- For a simple and thorough video on Color Theory Basics follow this link:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1CK9bE3H\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1CK9bE3H_s)
- To see how to mix paints for a variety of colors: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXAZ6b9y\\_Sw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXAZ6b9y_Sw)
- Hear the explanation of the science behind Monet's color from the Memorial Art Gallery at the University of Rochester: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVv102g7RZY>
- Try the tips in this video to paint like an Impressionist:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaPOUdft0rY>
- What Is Impressionism? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJh0x10J5Fw>
- Impressionism for Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTElv8-OuXQ>

Due to the changing nature of web resources, M&G strongly urges you as the parent to preview these sites before your child accesses them. The fact that these sites are available on this handout does not imply that M&G endorses their content from the standpoint of morals, philosophy, theology, or scientific hypotheses.

### M&G Educational Mission:

Through tours, events, and publications, the Museum & Gallery seeks to partner with educators in fulfilling all of the National Visual Arts Content Standards. By integrating art into the core curriculum, M&G's goals are to teach children to value the arts, to communicate through the arts, to become creative problem solvers through the inclusion of STEAM-related concepts and fully-developed STEAM units, to understand history and culture in light of the arts, to improve literary interest and understanding through visual storytelling, to critique the arts, and to develop an aesthetic awareness of the arts. Through fulfilling the mission, M&G is able to help develop citizens who have the ability to think, feel, and understand the world in which they live.

