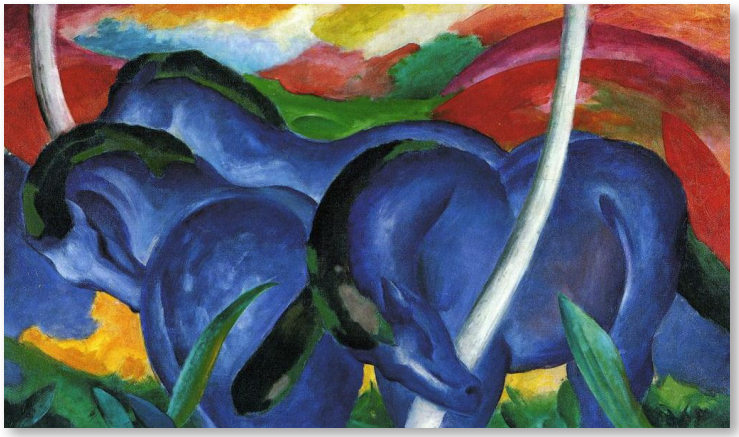
Art THROUGH THE Year
SEASON 2
with Sharon Jeffus

Lesson 4
Horses and Color

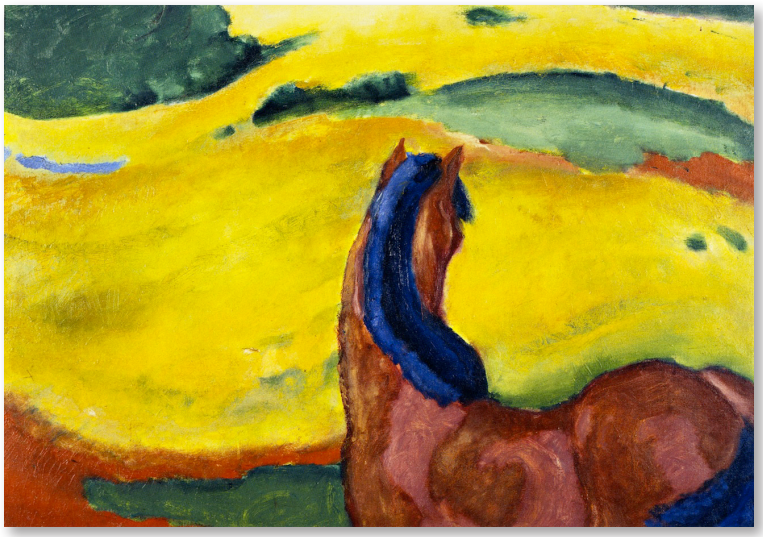
In this lesson, we will study beautiful horses—a popular subject in art. So far in this series, we've studied the elements of art: line, shape and texture. We will introduce the fourth element of art in this lesson: color. First, we'll look at paintings by expressionist master artist Franz Marc, and learn how he interpreted horses and colors in nature. Then we'll use the elements of art, line, shape and color to create our own pictures. In Project 1, we'll draw and paint a color wheel horse. In Project 2, we'll continue using color to draw and color a rainbow horse with an expressionist style landscape.

Masterpieces Referenced:

Blue Horse 1, by Franz Marc • 1911



The Large Blue Horses, by Franz Marc • 1911



Horse in a landscape, by Franz Marc • 1910

The Red Horses, by Franz Marc • 1911

"Every color must say clearly 'who and what' it is, and must, moreover, be related to a clear form."

— Franz Marc

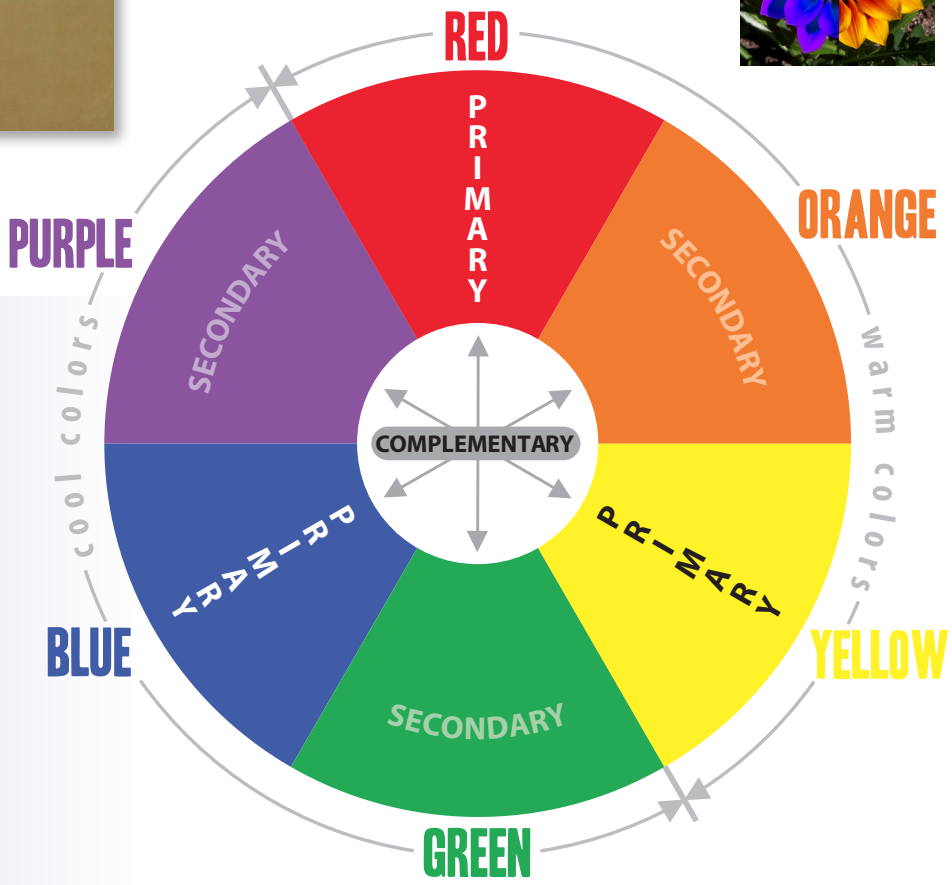
Masterpieces Referenced:

The oil painting below has a different style from the bold paintings of Impressionist artist, Franz Marc. This realistic painting shows the horse in neutral colors (black, white, gray, brown and beige), sometimes called earth tones.

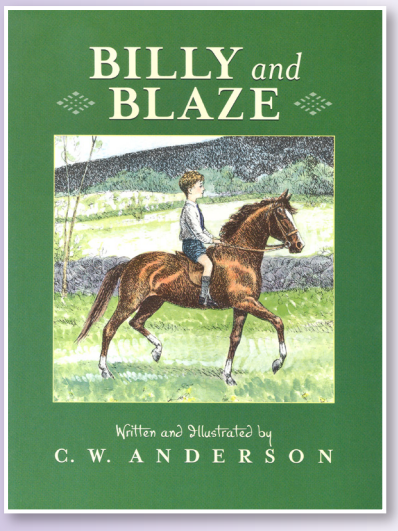
Whistlejacket, by George Stubbs • 1762

Color Wheel:

The color wheel showcases color hues and how they relate to each other in color theory. **Primary colors** (red, yellow, blue) are the 3 base color pigments that cannot be formed by any other color combination. All other colors are derived from these 3 hues. **Secondary colors** are formed by mixing the two primary colors next to them on the color wheel. **Complementary colors** are opposite of each other on the color wheel and create maximum contrast when used together. Colors have a visual temperature that can create a feeling or mood when used in artwork. **Warm colors** range from reds to oranges to yellows. **Cool colors** range from purples to blues to greens.



Sharon's Literature Inspiration:



"Blue is the male principle, stern and spiritual. Yellow the female principle, gentle, cheerful and sensual. Red is matter, brutal and heavy and always the colour which must be fought and vanquished by the other two."

— Franz Marc

Project 1: Color Wheel Horse

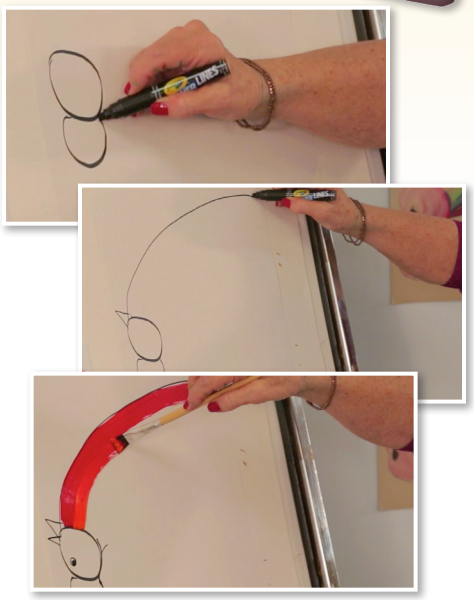
Create a whimsical horse using all the colors of the color wheel complete with a rainbow mane and face. Use mixed media to create a vibrant work of art.

Materials List:

- Tagboard Paper (12" x 18")
- Pencil
- Black Marker
- Flat Paintbrush
- Tempera Paints: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple
- Oil Pastels
- Baby Wipes
- Wiggly Eyes

Let's get started...

1. For a fun drawing space, cut the 12" x 18" paper down to 12" x 12".
2. With a pencil or black marker, draw two circles on the left side of the paper for the head. Then draw two triangles for ears and a long curved line across the page for the top of the neck. Draw in the eye, nostril and lower lip.
3. Have the six colors of paint on a paper plate. With a flat paintbrush dipped in red paint, start at the left side of the paper by the head and paint across the neck. Continue dipping your paintbrush into the next color and paint the neck of the horse until you finish with purple. (Have baby wipes to clean the paint off the brush between colors. It's not necessary to get the brush completely clean since we want a blended look with the colors.)
4. Set painting aside to dry; then come back to finish the head and mane.
5. With the oil pastels, color in the horse face with all the colors of the color wheel. Then color a rainbow mane using jagged, uneven lines.
6. Attach a wiggle eye (use glue if not self-adhesive) to your horse.
7. Finish the picture by adding swirls of color and/or dots around the horse. Have fun and be creative with the background.



Sharon's Sample Artwork:

Project 2: Rainbow Horse

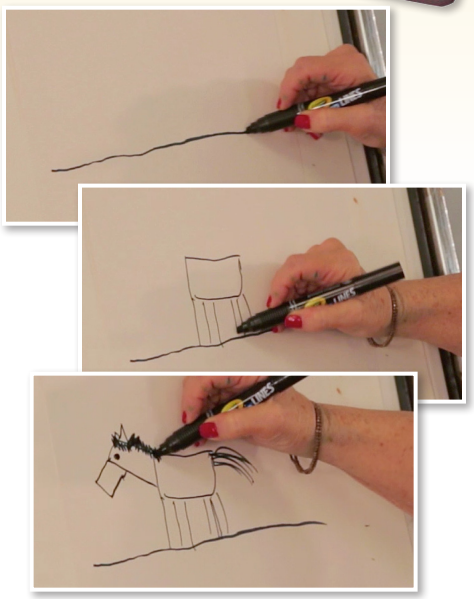
Create a rainbow horse using all the colors. Then in expressionist style, create a landscape around the horse that uses colors you won't normally see in nature to create a mood.

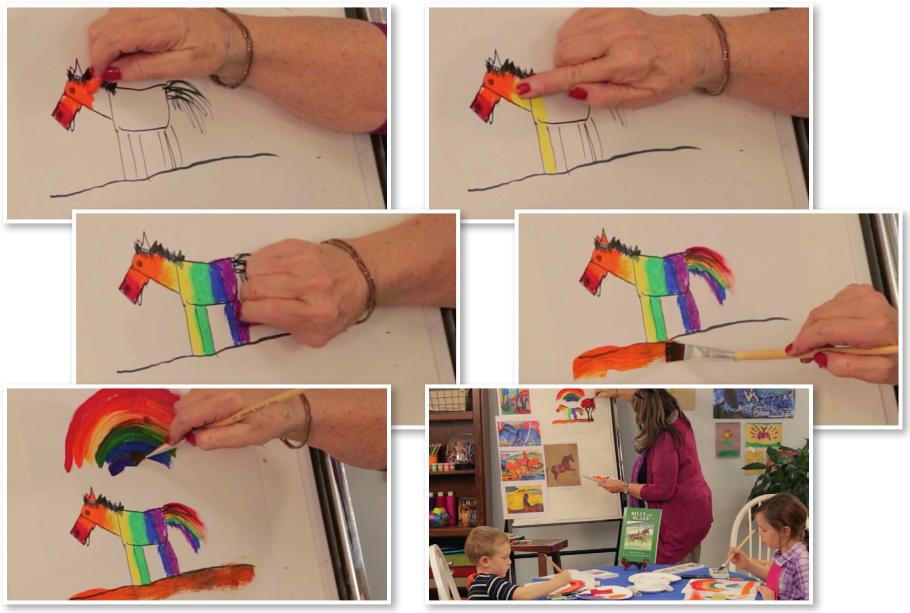
Materials List:

- Tagboard Paper (12" x 18")
- Pencil
- Black Marker
- Flat Paintbrush
- Tempera Paints: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple
- Oil Pastels
- Baby Wipes

Let's get started...

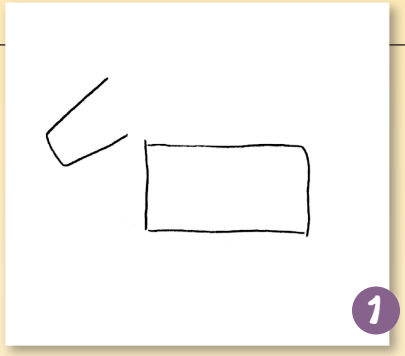
1. For a fun drawing space, cut the 12" x 18" paper down to 12" x 12".
2. With a pencil or black marker, draw a horizon line about 1/3 up the page. Then above that, draw a rectangle for the body, four lines for the legs, a rectangle for the neck, square for the nose, two triangles for the ears, and finish with the mane, tail, eye and nostril of the horse. (See page 5 for step-by-step samples on how to draw a horse.)
3. With oil pastels, color in the horse with all the colors of the rainbow. For a smooth, blended look between the colors, rub your fingers right over the oil pastel colored areas on the paper. Next, color in your tail with oil pastels using the same rainbow colors.
5. With the paintbrush and paint, color in the landscape around the horse as an expressionist artist. Think of unusual colors to create a mood. Maybe paint the ground orange, a tree red. Paint some blue or purple hills or add a fun rainbow to create a happy scene. Use your imagination; there's no need to use actual colors from nature.

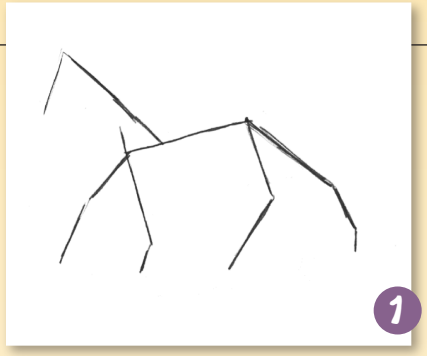




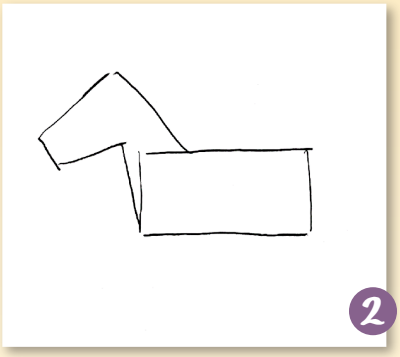
Sharon's Sample Artwork:

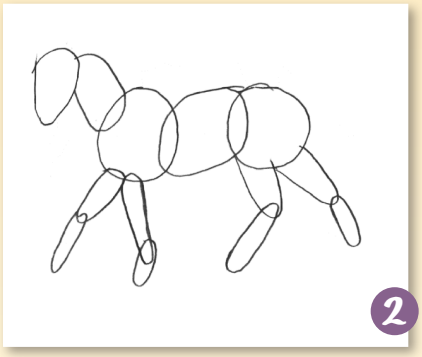
Step-by-Step Horse Drawings



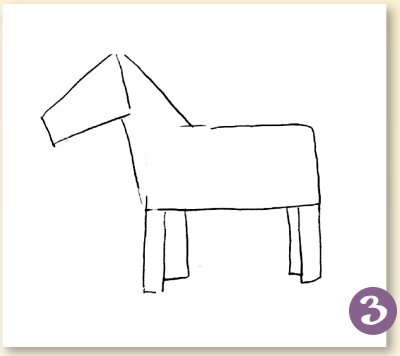


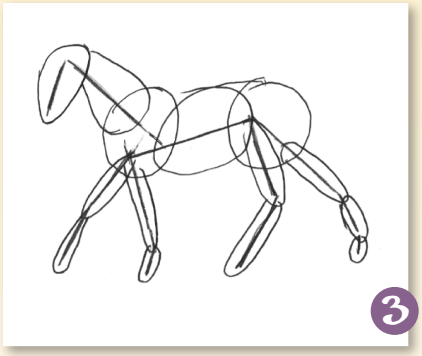
These lines represent the center lines of the horse.



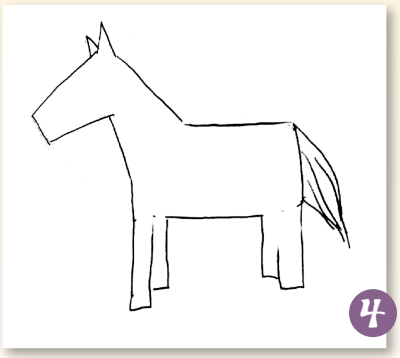


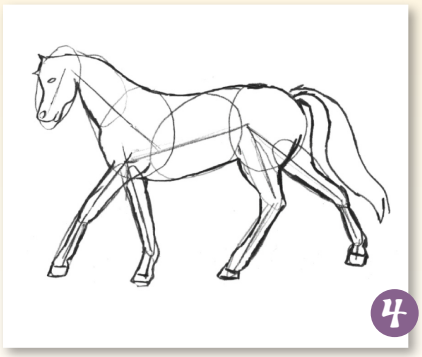
These circles represent the space used by this drawing of a horse.



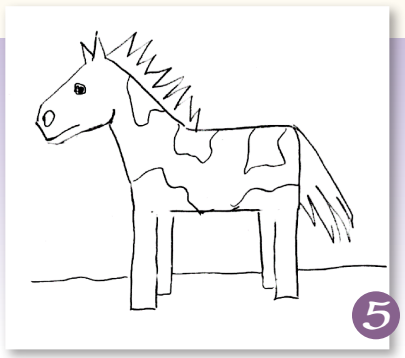


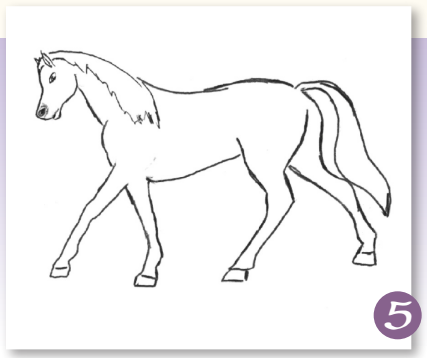
Using the center lines as a guide and the circles as space, you can get the general layout of a horse.





After you have the general layout created, begin to draw the details of the horse.





Erase the layout lines and circles to reveal the completed outline of the horse.

Project 1: Sharon's Finished Artwork

Project 1: Students' Finished Artwork

Cheyenh • Age 8

Ramsey • Age 4

Project 2: Sharon's Finished Artwork

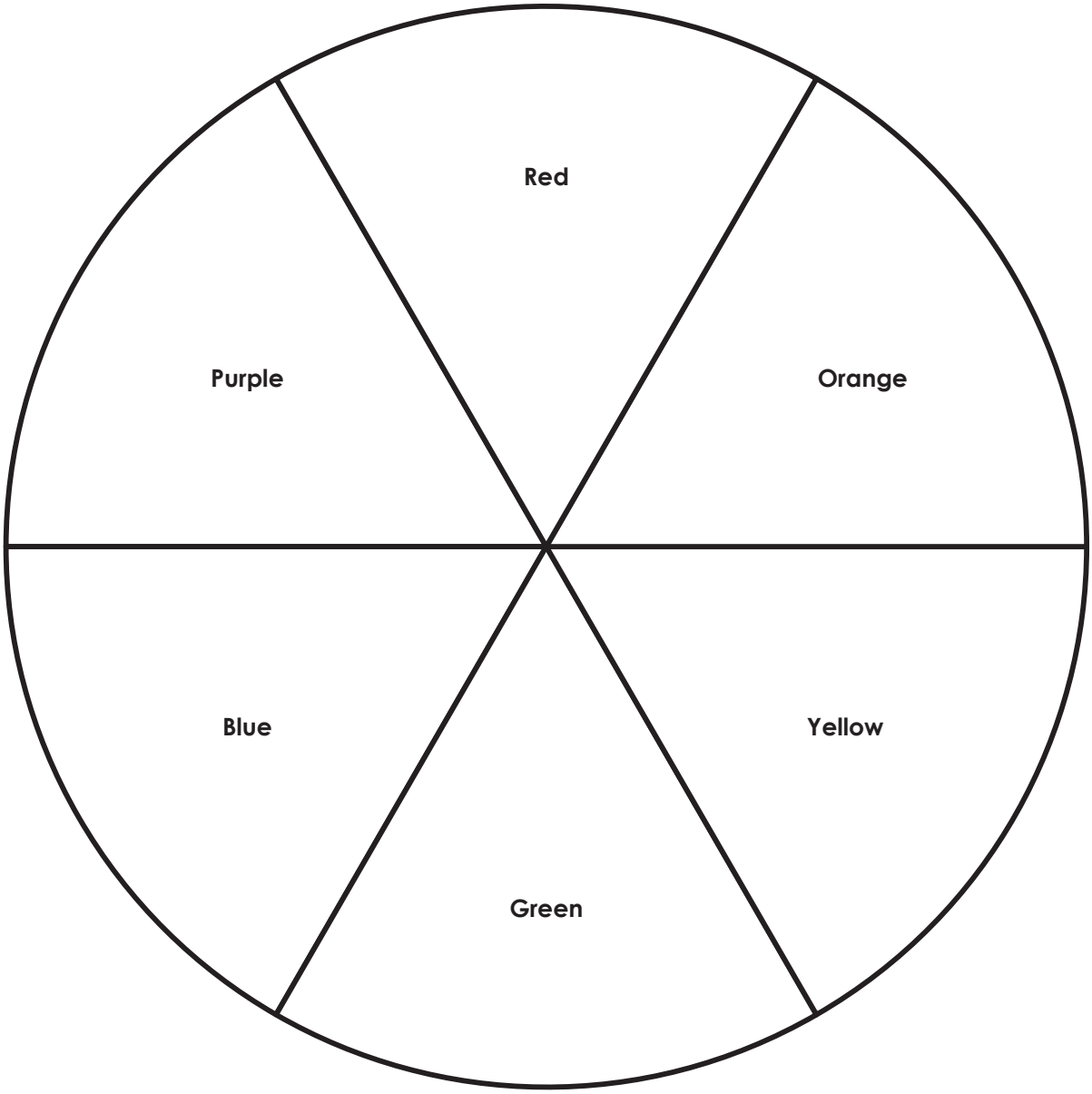
Project 2: Students' Finished Artwork

Cheyenh • Age 8

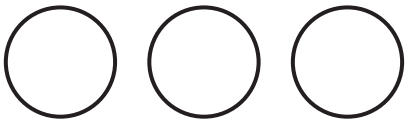
Ramsey • Age 4

Color Wheel Project:

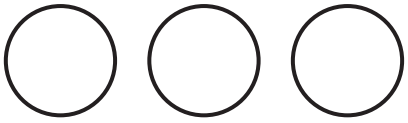
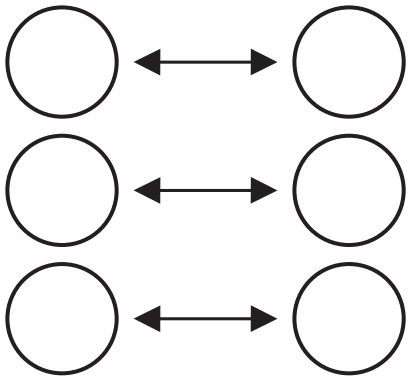
Color in the color wheel below with crayons or markers. For an extra challenge, search through old magazines to find objects of each color and cut them out. Then paste into each area on the color wheel (make sure to ask parents first which magazines are okay to cut up). Or make a color wheel out of your favorite candies.



Primary Colors:



Secondary Colors:



Complementary Colors: