

Color

Color is everywhere. It is in the orange-pink glow of the summer sky just before sunrise. It is in the rich reds and oranges of autumn leaves and in the long purple shadows that lay across the snow toward the close of a winter's day.

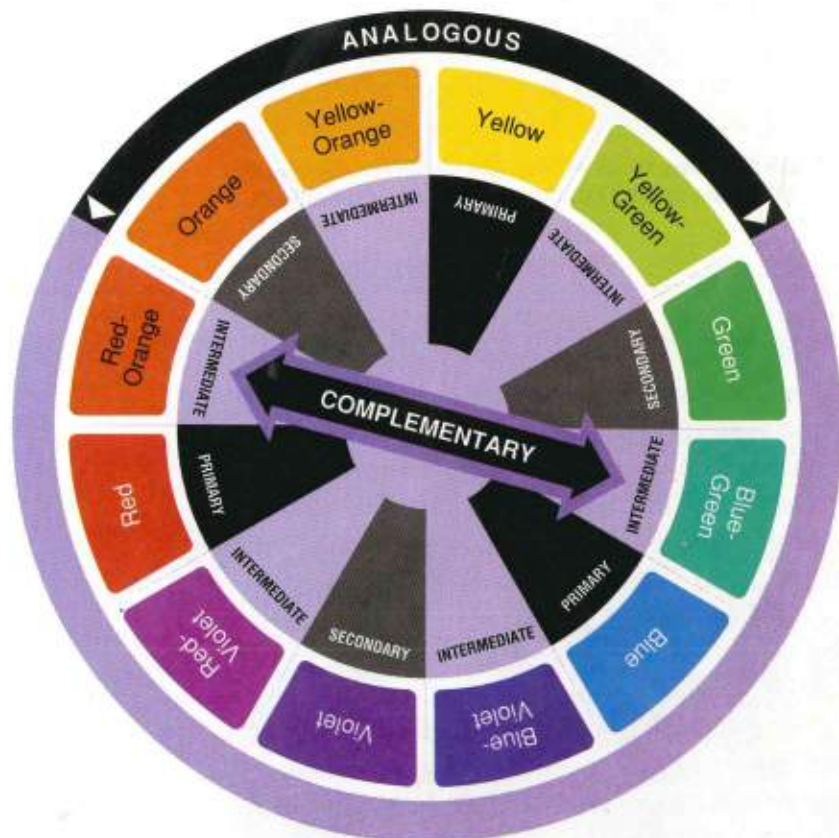
Color is even in our everyday language. "Green with envy," "feeling blue," and "red with rage" are English expressions that mention color.

In this lesson you will learn about the very important role color plays in art. You will learn how some artists have used color successfully. This knowledge of color can help you use it more creatively and effectively in your own art works.

TRAITS OF COLOR

Look up at the sun on a clear day and you see an almost blinding white light—or so your eye tells you. In reality, what you are looking at—but failing to see—are all the colors of the rainbow. When the sunlight shines on objects, some of the light is absorbed by the object. Some of the light bounces off. Color is what the eye sees when sunlight or some other light bounces off an object.

In the 18th century, Sir Isaac Newton organized the colors into a color wheel. The **color wheel** is an arrangement of colors in a circular format. See Figure 4-4. Later in this chapter you will learn more about the arrangement of the colors on the color wheel.



Color wheel.