

7.2: Colour and pattern



A **mandala** is a circular design that represents the universe in Buddhist and Hindu symbolism.

The word 'mandala' is a **Sanskrit** word that means **circle**. Sanskrit is an ancient Indian language that is 3,500 years old.



All mandalas show **radial symmetry**.

This means that the symmetry extends from the centre- like the rays of the sun.

Colour theory...

Primary colours cannot be made from other colours, but can be mixed in different combinations to create new colours.

Secondary colours = two primary colours mixed together

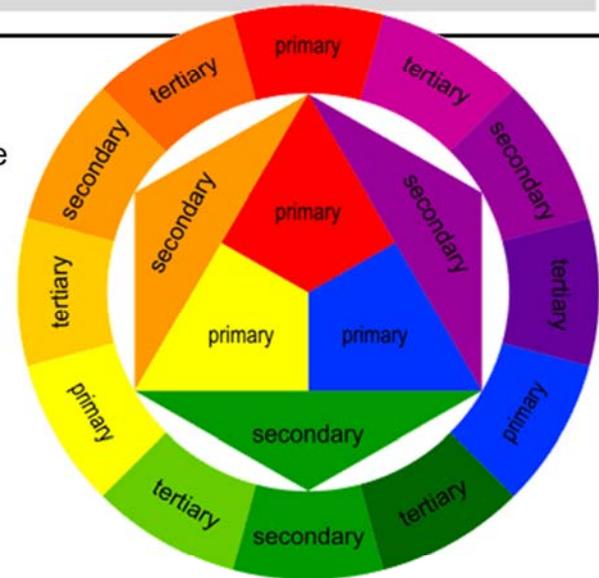
Tertiary colours = a colour with three ingredients – usually a secondary colour mixed with a primary colour. Brown is made by mixing all three primary colours together.

Complementary colours are opposite each other on the colour wheel. They look most vibrant when paired together. To find a complementary pair you can take one primary colour and mix the remaining two together.

Eg: **yellow** and **purple**, **red** and **green**, **blue** and **orange**.

Analogous colours are three colours next to each other on the colour wheel. They have a colour 'ingredient' in common.

Eg: yellow, yellow-orange and orange



(A hue is the pure colour without any white or black added to it)

Pure hue



Frank Stella...

Frank Stella is an American abstract artist famous for his paintings and sculptures. His work is vibrant and based on shape, colour and pattern.



Keywords

primary
secondary
tertiary
hue
tint

mandala
circle
Sanskrit
symmetry
radial
pattern

shade
complementary
analogous
opaque
translucent