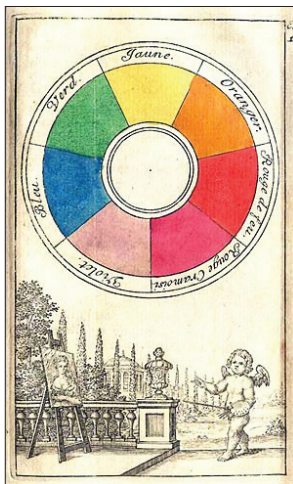


# Color

We need light to see color. That's because light is made up of many colors. When light hits an object, the object absorbs some of the colors and the rest are reflected to our eyes. When we teach children about color, we often start with the **primary colors**: red, yellow, and blue. They cannot be made by mixing other colors together. When two primary colors are mixed, they create a **secondary color**: orange, green, and purple.

## The Color Wheel

The first color wheel is believed to have been invented by Sir Isaac Newton (1643-1727), an English physician, mathematician, and astronomer. He noticed that when sunlight passes through a prism it splits into red, orange, yellow, green, cyan, and blue beams. He organized the colors in a circle to show their natural progression.



Color Circle by Boutet, 1708

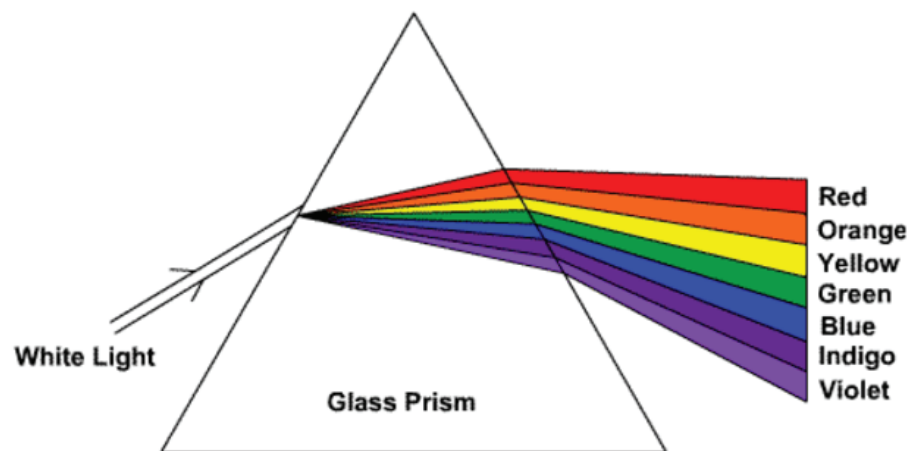
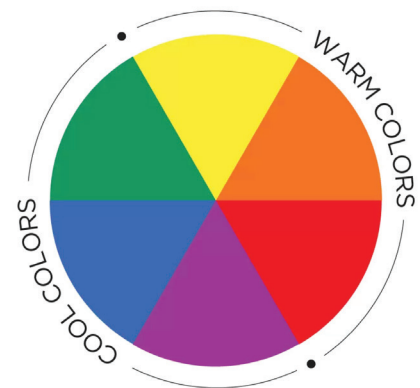


Diagram of white light passing through a prism

## Warm & Cool Colors

German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) noticed blue gives a feeling of coolness, while yellow gives a feeling of warmth. He divided colors into two groups: **warm colors** (yellow, orange, red) and **cool colors** (purple, blue, green). Warm colors seem to make us feel happy and cheerful, while cool colors often make us feel sad or lonely.



*There is no blue without yellow and without orange.*

Vincent Van Gogh



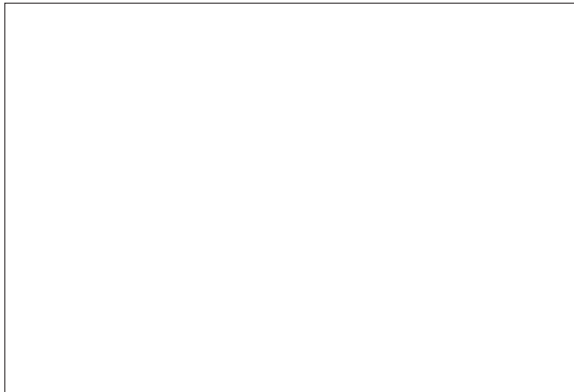
Flint Institute of Arts  
Education Department  
1120 E Kearsley Street, Flint MI 48503  
810-237-7314 • flintarts.org



# Warm or Cool Colors?

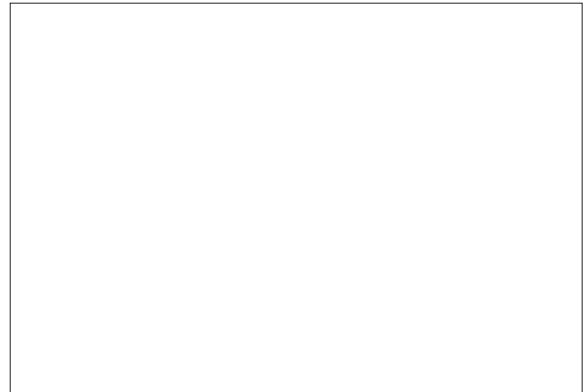
## Instructions

Visit the Flint Institute of Arts and look at artworks with warm or cool color schemes. In the space below, make sketches of paintings with a warm color scheme, paintings with a cool color scheme, and/or paintings that use both warm and cool colors. Which is your favorite? Check the correct color scheme for each painting and color in the star to indicate your favorite painting.



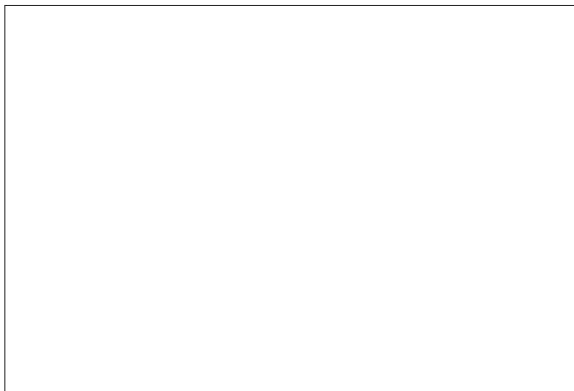
- warm color scheme
- cool color scheme
- warm & cool colors

★ favorite



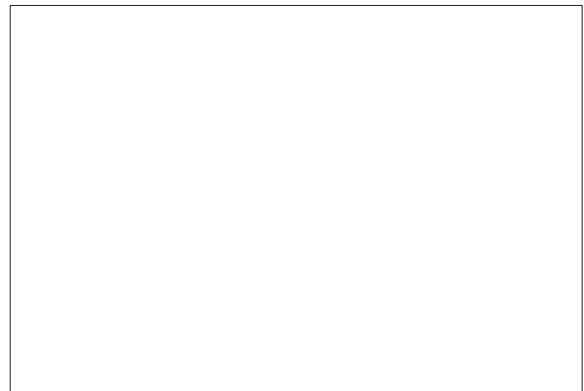
- warm color scheme
- cool color scheme
- warm & cool colors

★ favorite



- warm color scheme
- cool color scheme
- warm & cool colors

★ favorite



- warm color scheme
- cool color scheme
- warm & cool colors

★ favorite

