

Introduction to the Elements of Art & Principles of Design

Getting to know the fundamentals of Visual Art



The Elements of Art are very important to visual art. Art cannot be created without them.

- Line • Space • Shape • Form • Value • Texture • Color



“Elements of Art Song”

by Madeline Stone
on YouTube

Click to play; 3:53 minutes

- Line
- Shape
- Color
- Value
- Form
- Texture
- Space

(Jan 26, 2021;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5tYOB08sEA>)

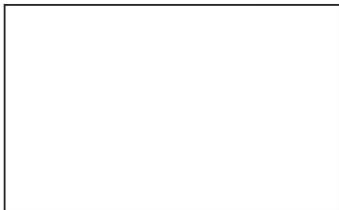
The Elements of Art

Name: _____

Grade: ____ Date: _____



Line is used to define shape and is the path between two points. (Zig-zag, dots, dashes, wavy, straight)



Shape: Geometric are mathematical shapes (triangle, circle, etc.) and Organic are often found in nature.



Value is a range of lightness and darkness of a color and a range of highlights and shadows.



Form is used in 3D art and describes the shape of the artwork. Form is also the illusion of three dimensions.



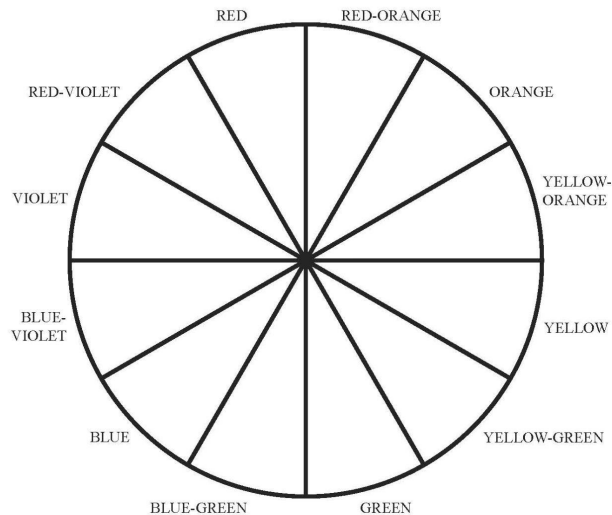
Texture is the feel or implied feeling of a surface (rough, bumpy, smooth, sharp, hairy, fluffy, etc.).



Space is portrayed by foreground, middleground, and background, by positive (active) and negative (passive) space, or with 3D compositions.

The Elements of Art

Color is what is the hue seen when light touches an object and reflects back to the eye.



The color wheel shows the **primary colors** (pure red, yellow, and blue) colors, the **secondary colors** (mixing primary colors together: orange, violet, and green), and **tertiary colors** (mix of primary and secondary colors next to each other on the color wheel: red-orange, red-violet, yellow-orange, yellow-green, blue-green, and blue-violet).

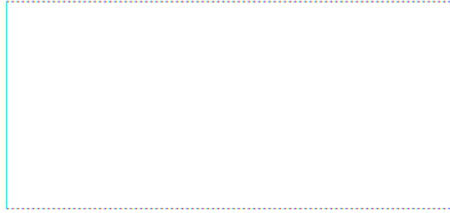
Complementary Colors are colors opposite each other on the color wheel (ex. red and green).

Tint: A color mixed with white; **Shade:** A color mixed with black; **Tone:** A color mixed with gray.

The Principles of Design

Name: _____

Grade: _____



Balance is how an artwork's visual weight is organized (symmetrically *even* or asymmetrical *uneven*).



Contrast is when an artwork's elements create interesting differences (ex. use of color, line, scale).



Movement is the use of elements to lead the viewer's eye through and around the artwork (ex. implied lines).



Emphasis is a focal point, or point of interest, in the artwork (ex. use of color, line, size).



Pattern is repeating elements in the same order, while rhythm is repeating elements without a specific order.



Unity is harmony throughout the elements working together to create a cohesive whole.

The Principles of Design are how the Elements of Art are organized.

- **Balance** is how an artwork's visual weight is organized (symmetrically *even* or asymmetrical *uneven*).
- **Contrast** is when an artwork's elements are varied (like opposites) to create interesting differences.
- **Movement** is the use of elements to lead the viewer's eye through and around the artwork (often created by implied lines).
- **Emphasis** is a focal point, or point of interest, in the artwork (ex. color, line, size).
- **Pattern** is a repetition of elements in the same order, while **rhythm** is the repetition of elements without a specific order.
- **Unity** is created by the elements working well together.

What Principles and Elements do you see here?

Elements

Line

Space

Shape

Form

Value

Texture

Color



Principles

Balance

Contrast

Movement

Emphasis

Pattern

Rhythm

Unity

"Lighthouse Ocean Sunset" by natureworks (June 22, 2015)
<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/lighthouse-ocean-sunset-seagulls-816546/>

Principles and Elements Poster

Activity: Create a poster that accurately depicts each element of art and principle of design.

Learning Objective: Students will be able to independently use their learning to apply their understanding of the elements of art and principle of design to arrange and design an informational poster.

Essential Question:

- Why are the elements of art important?

Students will understand that successfully unified artworks implement several elements of art and principles of design.

Accommodation: Students may use the worksheets as a guide.