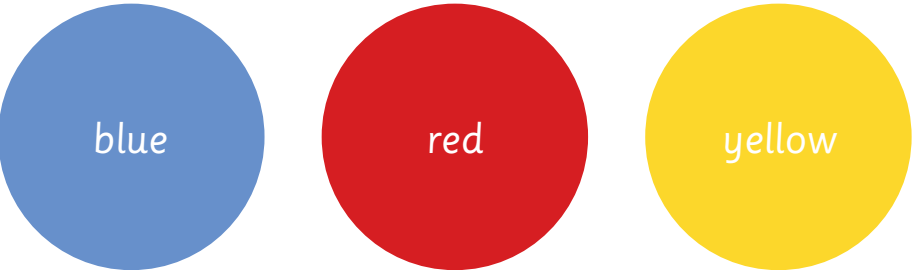


# Mixing Colours

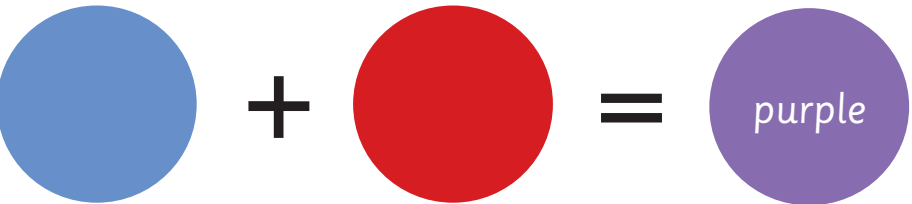
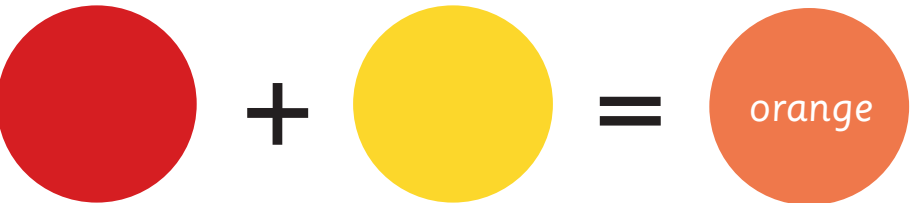
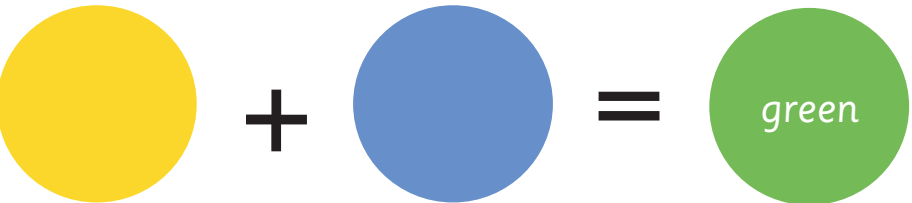
## Primary colours

The primary colours cannot be made by mixing other colours. The primary colours are blue, red and yellow. All other colours can be made by mixing the primary colours.



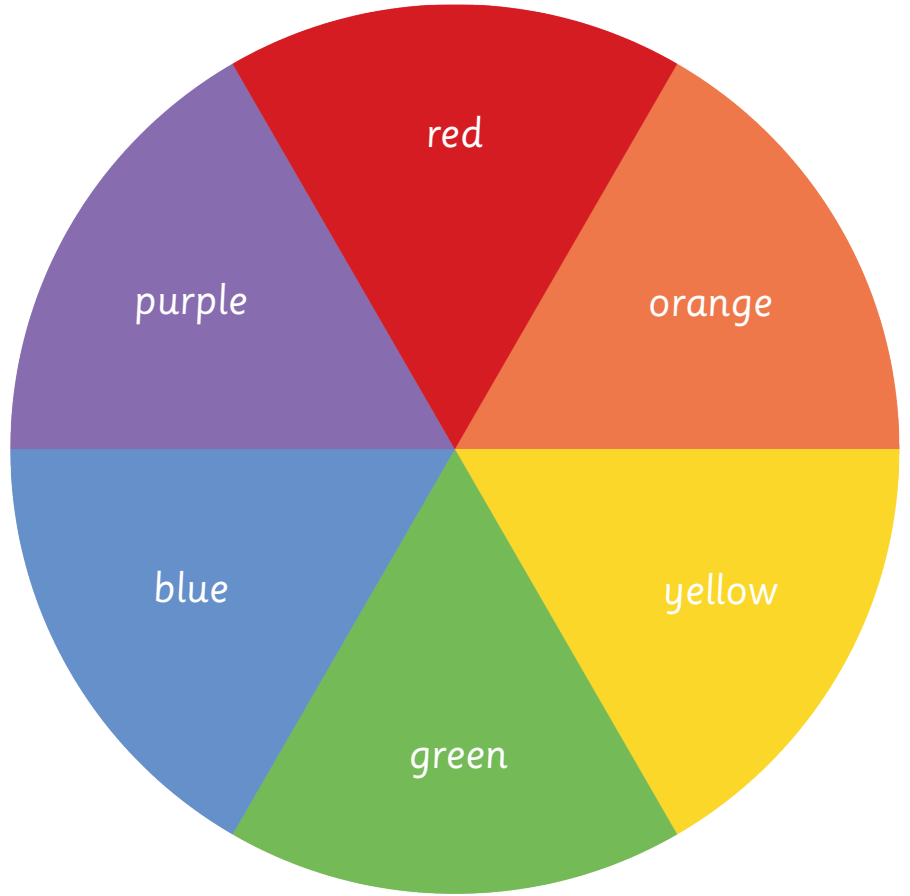
## Secondary colours

The secondary colours are green, orange and purple. They are made by mixing equal amounts of primary colours. Yellow and blue make green. Red and yellow make orange. Blue and red make purple.



## Colour wheel

The colour wheel is a diagram that shows how colours are organised. The secondary colours sit between the primary colours from which they are made.



## Colour mixing

Colours can be mixed in palettes using paintbrushes or directly on the paper using rollers.



## Colour in art

In this painting by Edwin Lord Weeks, the limited use of the primary colour red makes the elephant stand out against the dull colours of the setting.



*An Indian Hunting Party*  
by Edwin Lord Weeks, 1849

In this painting by Faith Ringgold, the primary and secondary colours give the painting a vibrant and lively effect.



*The Sunflower Quilting Bee at Arles*  
by Faith Ringgold, 1996

## Glossary

<b>colour wheel</b>	A tool used in art and design to show colours and their relationship to each other.
<b>primary colour</b>	A colour that cannot be made by mixing other colours.
<b>secondary colour</b>	A colour that is made by mixing equal amounts of two primary colours.



# Flower Head

Flowers are a natural form. They can be brightly coloured, patterned and various shapes and sizes. Because of this, many artists have used flowers as inspiration for their artwork.

## Famous floral artworks

Some of the most famous artworks featuring flowers are by the artist Vincent van Gogh. He was fascinated by sunflowers and, for him, the colour yellow was a symbol of happiness and sunshine. Here are two of his artworks inspired by sunflowers.



*Three Sunflowers in a Vase,*  
1888



*Six Sunflowers,* 1888

## Contemporary artists

Many contemporary artists are inspired by flowers. These giant glass flowers are made by the artist Dale Chihuly. He loves to create art that uses the colours and forms of flowers to capture the imagination.

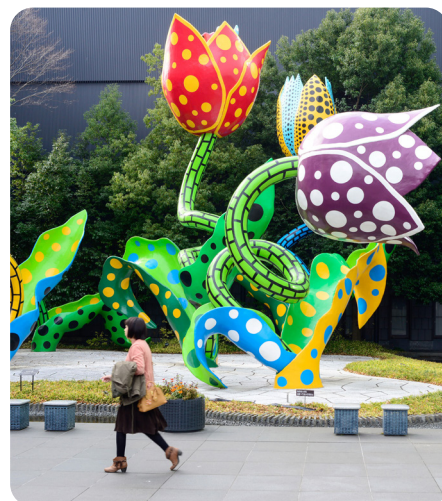


*Persian Chandelier,* 2004



*Macchia Forest,* 2001

Yayoi Kusama is another contemporary artist inspired by the natural forms of flowers. Her giant flower sculptures are brightly coloured and highly patterned. Her work is often placed in urban settings as a contrast to the surrounding buildings.



*The Visionary Flowers,*  
2002



*Flowers That Bloom Tomorrow,* 2009

## Visual elements

### Colour

Flowers are brightly coloured to attract animals. The bright colours also make them a good subject for artists to paint. Vincent van Gogh was inspired by the beautiful bright blue of the iris flower in this famous painting.



irises



*Irises,* 1889

### Texture

Flowers have interesting textures. Peonies have a soft and wrinkled texture, and tulips are smooth and shiny. In contrast, sunflower heads are rough and bumpy. Texture is added to artwork using textural materials or by making marks on the surface of the artwork.



peonies



tulips

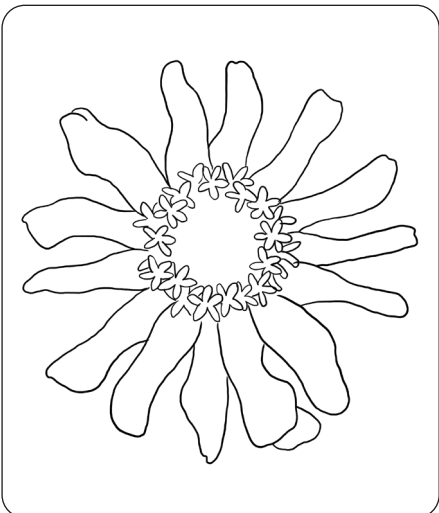
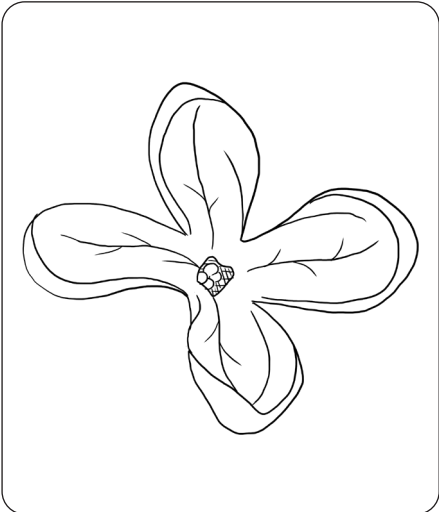


sunflowers



Lines and shapes

Flowers and petals have interesting shapes. When drawing, lines are used to create the outline of the flower or its smaller parts.



Pattern

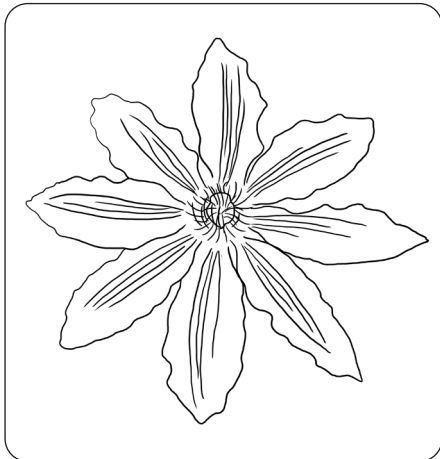
Flowers often have beautiful and delicate patterns. Adding pattern to drawings adds interest and detail.



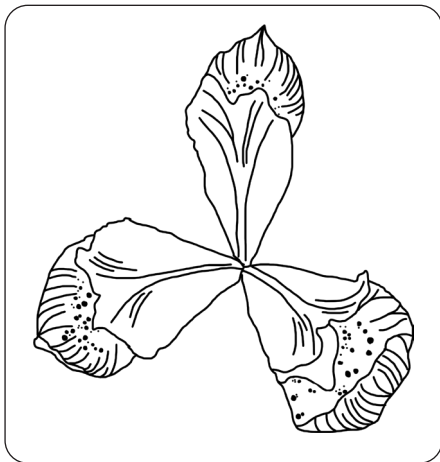
spots



stripes



spots and stripes



Form

Flowers come in different shapes and sizes. The form of a flower can inspire three-dimensional artwork, such as this orchid sculpture by artist Marc Quinn.



orchid



Orchid, 2013

Glossary

**colour** The hue or shade of something.

**contemporary artist** An artist who is living at this time.

**form** The 3-D shape of something.

**line** A mark made in drawing.

**pattern** A decorative design.

**sculpture** A 3-D form.

**shape** The outline of something.

**visual element** A characteristic that can be seen, such as line, shape, form, colour, pattern and texture.