

**COMPETENCY #5:** Understand the color wheel.

**CONCEPT:** Color is vital! It is an important element of design. By understanding the basic characteristics of color, the impressions color creates, and psychological aspects of color, we are able to enhance our fashion knowledge in both our personal wardrobe or for professional fashion design.

**MOTIVATOR:** Using large pieces of butcher paper or poster board, display one color at a time to the class. Begin with the primary colors. As you hold up each color, ask the students to record any feelings thoughts or emotions that the color evokes. Move on to the secondary colors, ask the same questions. Display black and white and ask the same questions.

#### **LECTURE/DISCUSSION**

Each color, as we have just discovered evokes different emotions and feelings. There are even cliches written about colors: I'm feeling blue, green with envy, black as sin, little white lie, etc. (ask the students if they know of any cliches to add to this list.)

The colors each have a distinct character, one very different from the others.

The color wheel is used to help us classify the colors.

The color wheel is made up of 12 colors:

- 3 PRIMARY
- 3 SECONDARY
- 3 TERTIARY OR INTERMEDIATE

All the colors in the color wheel are called TRUE or SIMPLE colors. All other colors are made by mixing and blending these colors.

**NOTE:** Use a purchased, large size, color wheel to show students the relationships of the colors.

Develop the following ideas as appropriate for your class.

1. Colors are grouped in cool colors and warm colors. Ask the students to choose the colors they feel are cool and which are warm.
2. Red, orange, and yellow are the warm colors. Commonly considered so because they are the colors that can be seen in the sun during different times of the day. A warm fire also glows with red, orange and yellow.

3. Warm colors advance to the viewer.
4. Warm colors seem to suggest activity and vitality.
5. Warm colors make fashions or accessories advance or seem more prominent on the wearer.
6. The cool colors are blue, green, and violet/purple. These colors suggest coolness as in water, trees, lawn, shade. Cool colors are found in streams and oceans, forests, clear blue sky.
7. Cool colors recede from the viewer. Fashions or accessories recede or decrease attention to the area where they are worn.
8. Cool colors are associated with freshness, rest and relaxation.
9. Cool colors are easy to live with for a longer period of time than warm colors. They are used in hospitals or areas where the occupants are encouraged to be calm and relaxed.

#### **ASSIGNMENT**

Complete the assignment titled "The color Wheel". Use colored pencils or water colors (most markers are too hard to mix)

**NOTE:** You may want to purchase a classroom set of colored pencils to use for this assignment - one box for every 5-6 students.