



## Clay Color Wheel

This lesson plan is a three-dimensional understanding of color theory. Students will create a traditional color wheel or a color wheel exhibiting other color theory terms. The wheel will be made on a clay tile with mixable glazes.

Techniques learned or practiced in this lesson include trimming, smoothing, mixing glazes, and glazing.

### MATERIALS

- Clay slab or premade clay tile. (White clay like Rovin's RO-42 works best.)
- Smoothing tool
- Trimming tool or round cutting tool. (We used a quart container.)
- Mixable glazes (such as AMACO Teacher's Palette, Teacher's Choice, or Velvet underglazes, or Mayco Stroke N' Coat).
- Glazing brushes
- A clear overglaze if mixable underglazes were used.

### PROCESS

1. Cut out a round tile from a pre-rolled slab that is about 3/4" thick. Or pre-cut tiles for your students to use.
2. Smooth the edges of your tile with a finishing sponge or other smoothing tool.
3. Bisque your tile before glazing for best results. Mayco Stroke N' Coats and AMACO velvet underglazes can be applied on greenware with good results.





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4. When your tile is bisqued or ready to be painted as greenware, begin by applying the primary colors, then the secondary, and finally the tertiary by mixing the primaries together.

**-Primary Colors:** Red, Blue, Yellow

**-Secondary Colors:** Purple, Orange, Green

**-Tertiary Colors:** Blue-Purple (Violet), Red-Purple (Magenta), Blue-Green (Teal), Yellow-Green (Chartreuse), Red-Orange (Vermilion), Yellow-Orange (Amber)

## COLOR THEORY TERMS

Students can also learn color theory terminology with different types of color wheels. For example, they can learn about monochromatic formulas by using only one color with different values of lightness or darkness. They can also learn about tinting and shading, complementary colors, or warm/cold colors.

**-Complementary Colors:** These are pairs of colors directly across from each other on the color wheel (e.g. red and green).

**-Tinting:** Adding white to a color to lighten it.

**-Shading:** Adding black to a color to darken it.

**-Color Value:** The lightness or darkness of a color on a spectrum (darker colors have a greater value than lighter colors).

**-Monochromatic:** Consisting of a single color that may be altered by changing the value or the saturation.

**-Polychromatic:** Consisting of more than one color that may be altered by changing the value or the saturation.

**-Warm Colors:** Colors on the wheel between purple and red or red and yellow.

**-Cool Colors:** Colors on the wheel between purple and blue or blue and yellow.

**-Hue:** Another term for color or color value.

