

A stylized illustration of Wassily Kandinsky, showing him from the chest up. He has brown hair, wears glasses, a white collared shirt, a blue bow tie, and a blue suit jacket. The background behind him is a vibrant, abstract pattern of concentric circles and squares in various colors like red, yellow, blue, and purple.

# Wassily Kandinsky

# Wassily Kandinsky (1866 - 1944)

Wassily Kandinsky was a Russian painter.

Many people think he was the first abstract artist.

Abstract art is a combination of colors, lines, and shapes that are not meant to be realistic.



**Abstract Painting**  
by Wassily Kandinsky



**Red Spot II (1921)**  
by Wassily Kandinsky

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# All About Wassily Kandinsky

Wassily Kandinsky was born in Russia in 1866. When he grew up, he worked as a university teacher, but it didn't make him happy.

When he was 30, he left his job and went to art school. He found art school easy and excelled at his studies.

Kandinsky thought a lot about colors and how they make people feel. He believed that colors had a soul.



**Wassily Kandinsky**



**Improvisation 26 (Rowing) (1912)**  
by Wassily Kandinsky

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# All About Wassily Kandinsky



Kandinsky was the first painter to stop painting pictures of real things and instead paint just using colors and shapes. He believed that this let him paint honestly about his feelings.

Often Kandinsky would listen to music while he painted and try to paint what he heard.

Other painters that came after him learned a lot from Kandinsky's ideas.

# Let's Talk!

## Squares with Concentric Circles (1913)



What do you see when you look at this painting?

How has the painting been made?

What kind of colors does Kandinsky use?

How would you describe these colors?

What shapes can you see?

What lines can you see?

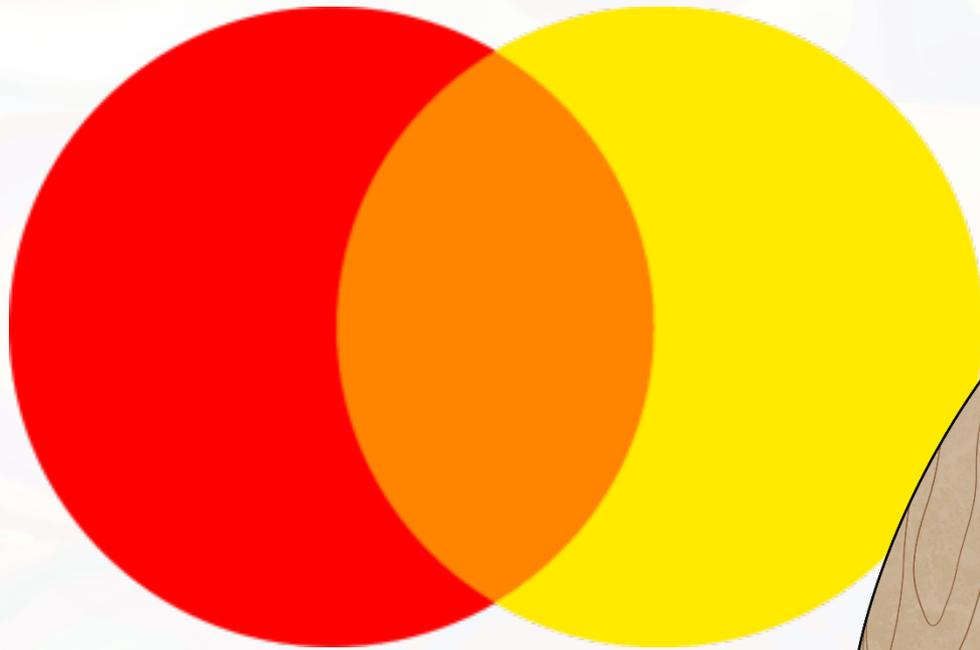
How do you think Kandinsky was feeling when he painted this?

How does the painting make you feel?

Do you like it? Why?

Before we paint, let's learn about...

# Color Mixing



# Primary Colors

Primary colors cannot be made by mixing other colors.

The primary colors are red, yellow, and blue.

Primary colors can be mixed together to make other colors.

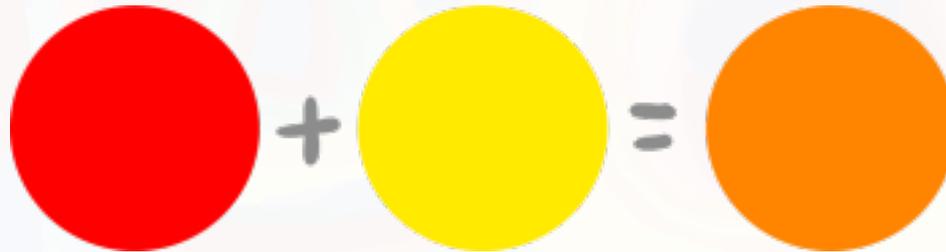


# Secondary Colors

You use  
**primary** colors to make  
**secondary** colors.



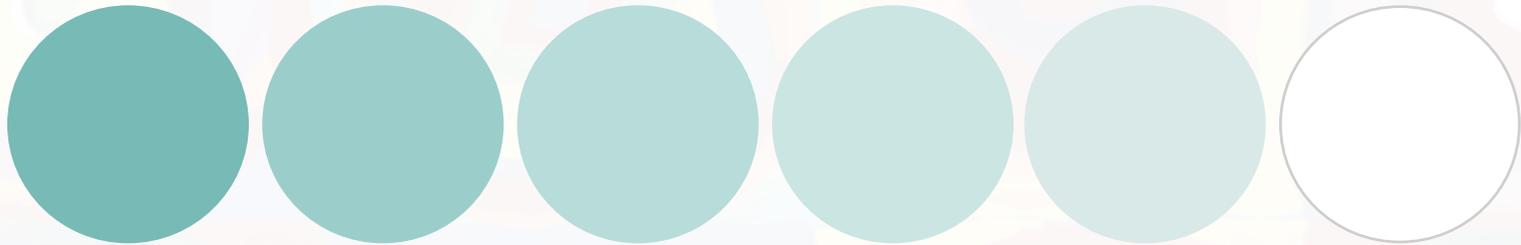
# Mixing Secondary Colors



# Mixing Tints

If you add white to a color, you can make tints of the original color.

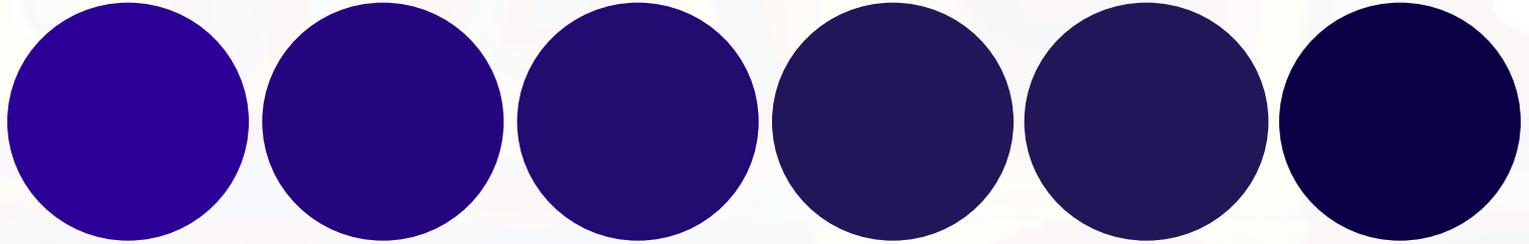
White makes the color lighter.



# Mixing Shades

If you add black to a color, you can make shades of the original color.

Black makes the color darker.



# Warm and Cool Colors



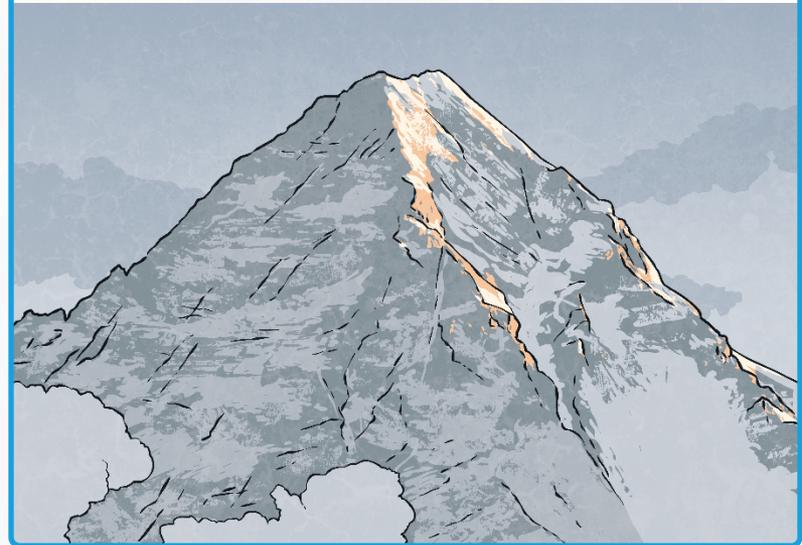
## Warm Colors

Red, orange, and yellow are warm colors. They make us think of sun, warmth, and cozy things.



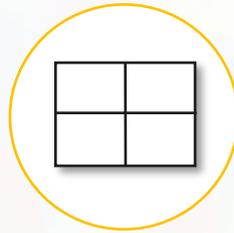
## Cool Colors

Green, blue, and purple are cool colors. They make us think of fresh, calm, and chilly things.



# Kandinsky Circle Painting

You will need...



paper folded into  
four squares



colored paint



brushes



water

1. Experiment with mixing colors together. Use white to make them lighter and black to make them darker. Make some colors that you like.
2. In each square of your template, paint a dot. Use a different color for each one.
3. Around each dot, paint a circle in a different color.
4. Around each circle, paint a larger circle in a new color.
5. Finally, fill in any white space you have left in each square in another color.

