

LESSON 1: NATURAL ORDER OF COLOUR

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Purpose of This Exercise

In this lesson, you will practice *seeing* color the way nature presents it. Colors follow a natural order based on light and material properties. When colors are arranged correctly, they feel rich and believable. When the order is reversed, colors can appear dull, muddy, or unnatural.

Your goal is to carefully observe, test color sequences, and record what you actually see.

Materials

- Pencil or pen
- Sketchbook and this worksheet
- Paints or printed color swatches (as provided)
- Reference image or natural subject (plant, sky, landscape, flower, etc.)

Part I: Observation

Spend several quiet minutes observing a natural object or scene.

1. What is the subject you observed?

2. List the dominant colors you notice (do not overthink - write what you see):

3. How do these colors deepen or change across space?

(For example: sky near the horizon vs. overhead, petal edge vs. center, light vs. shadow.)

LESSON 1: NATURAL ORDER OF COLOUR

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Part 2: Natural Color Order

Read the following statement:

Yellow sits closest to white light. Violet sits closest to black. Between them, color deepens along natural paths through reds and blues.

4. Based on your observation, which colors appeared lighter and which appeared deeper?

Part 3: Color Pair Testing

You will test color pairs in the natural order and then in reverse order.

Suggested pairs (use the ones provided by your teacher):

- Yellow/Orange
- Orange/Red
- Red/Crimson
- Crimson/Purple
- Yellow/Yellow-Green
- Yellow-Green/Green
- Green/Green-Blue
- Green-Blue/Blue
- Blue/Ultramarine
- Ultramarine/Violet

Keep color areas large enough to judge clearly.

LESSON 1: NATURAL ORDER OF COLOUR

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Test Record

Choose at least three pairs to test.

Pair 1: _____

Natural order (lighter → deeper) — What did you notice?

Reversed order — What changed?

Pair 2: _____

Natural order (lighter → deeper) — What did you notice?

Reversed order — What changed?

Pair 3: _____

Natural order (lighter → deeper) — What did you notice?

Reversed order — What changed?

LESSON 1: NATURAL ORDER OF COLOUR

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Part 4: Reflection

5. Which color sequence felt most natural to you, and why?

6. Which reversed sequence felt the most “wrong”? Describe the effect.

(Examples: thin, muddy, dull, flat, dirty, confusing.)

Closing Thought

Nature repeats its color gradients every day as light changes. The more often you practice observing and testing color order, the more confident and accurate your color work will become.

Optional: Record today’s observations in your sketchbook so you can compare them with future studies.

Notes: _____

LESSON 2: HARMONY

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Purpose of This Exercise

This lesson explores color harmony: how neighboring colors in the natural color sequence work together. Harmony does not mean “matching” colors. It comes from adjacent hues behaving in an orderly way and from controlled changes in tonal depth.

You will test simple harmonies first, then expand them using pale, deep, and broken (neutralized) versions of color.

Materials

- Pencil or pen
- Sketchbook and this worksheet
- Paints or printed color swatches (as provided)
- Palette paper or surface for arranging color samples

Key Idea to Remember

Adjacent (neighboring) hues in the spectrum form the simplest and most reliable harmonies, especially when arranged in natural order and supported by gradual changes in tone.

Part 1: Identifying Adjacent Hues

Adjacent (neighboring) hues in the spectrum form the simplest and most reliable harmonies, especially when arranged in natural order and supported by gradual changes in tone.

1. Circle or list three pairs of adjacent hues you will work with today:

(Examples: yellow–orange, orange–red, green–green-blue)

Pair A: _____

Pair B: _____

Pair C: _____

LESSON 2: HARMONY

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Part 2: Exercise 1 — Bright-Tint Harmonies

Arrange each chosen pair using **only bright (pure) colors**.

2. Arrange the pair in natural order. What do you notice?

(Consider unity, richness, shared intensity, comfort to the eye.)

3. Reverse the same pair. What changes?

Part 3: Exercise 2 — Pale + Deep Harmonies

Create or select a **pale** version and a **deep** version of your hues.

4. Which combinations did you test?

(Example: pale yellow + deep orange)

5. How did tonal depth affect the harmony?

(Did the colors feel richer, flatter, deeper, calmer?)

LESSON 2: HARMONY

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Part 4: Exercise 3 — Brilliant + Broken Hues

Choose one **brilliant (pure)** hue and a **broken** version of that same hue (slightly greyed or neutralized).

6. List the three colors you used:

- **Brilliant Hue:** _____
- **Broken Hue:** _____
- **Adjacent supporting hue:** _____

7. How did the broken hue behave?

(Check one or describe)

- ☐ **Supportive**
- ☐ **Smoothing**
- ☐ **Dulling**
- ☐ **Enriching**

Explain briefly:

LESSON 2: HARMONY

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Part 4: Exercise 3 — Brilliant + Broken Hues

Choose one **brilliant (pure)** hue and a **broken** version of that same hue (greyed or neutralized).

6. List the three colors you used:

- **Brilliant Hue:** _____
- **Broken Hue:** _____
- **Adjacent supporting hue:** _____

7. How did the broken hue behave?

(Check one or describe)

- ☐ **Supportive**
- ☐ **Smoothing**
- ☐ **Dulling**
- ☐ **Enriching**

Explain briefly:

LESSON 2: HARMONY

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Part 5: Harmony Trio

Create a small **harmony trio** using adjacent hues and tonal variation.

8. Describe your trio:

(Include bright, pale/deep, and broken elements.)

Reflection

9. Which type of harmony felt most natural to you? Why?

10. What is one clear visual effect you observed from using adjacent hues?

Closing Thought

Harmony grows stronger when color relationships are orderly and tonal changes are controlled. Repeating these studies will sharpen your ability to build color unity with confidence.

Optional: Tape or sketch your harmony studies directly into your sketchbook for future reference.

LESSON 3: CONTRAST

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Purpose of This Exercise

This lesson explores color contrast: how certain color pairs intensify each other when placed side by side. Strong contrast depends not only on hue difference, but on quantity control. When one color dominates and the other supports, contrast becomes clear, stable, visually pleasing, and powerful.

Your goal is to observe how unequal quantities enhance, organize contrast, and prevent visual conflict.

Key Definition (after Rood/Carpenter)

Contrasting colors are those which, when placed side by side, intensify each other but do not change.

Materials

- Pencil or pen
- Sketchbook and this worksheet
- Paints or printed color swatches (as provided)
- Palette paper or surface for arranging color samples

Key Rule to Remember

True contrast looks best when one color greatly exceeds the other in quantity.

Equal areas compete visually for our attention. Unequal areas establish balance and clarity.

Part 1: Identifying Contrasting Pairs

1. List one contrasting (non-adjacent) color pair you will work with:

(Examples: red + green-blue, blue + orange, yellow + violet)

Pair: _____

LESSON 3: CONTRAST

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Part 2: Exercise 1 — Equal-Area Test (Diagnostic)

Place the two contrasting colors in equal-sized areas.

2. What do you observe?

(Check any that apply or describe.)

- ☐ Increased brilliance
- ☐ Visual tension or vibration
- ☐ Confusion about which color is leading
- ☐ Apparent hue change

Notes:

Part 3: Exercise 2 — Dominant vs. Subordinate

Now adjust the same pair so that one color occupies most of the space and the other becomes a smaller accent.

3. Which color is dominant?

4. What changes when quantity becomes unequal?

(Consider calmness, clarity, strength, vividness.)

LESSON 3: CONTRAST

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Part 4: Exercise 3 — Tone-Controlled Contrast

Repeat the dominant/subordinate arrangement while changing tone.

5. Test and observe:

- ☐ Reverse which color is dominant
- ☐ Make both colors pale
- ☐ Make both colors deep

6. What stayed consistent across these tests?

(What did dominance control, regardless of tone?)

Part 5: Final Contrast Study

Create a final contrast arrangement using:

- One contrasting color pair
- One clearly dominant color
- One subordinate accent
- No visible hue distortion

7. Describe your final study:

LESSON 3: CONTRAST

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Reflection

Create a small **harmony trio** using adjacent hues and tonal variation.

8. Why does unequal quantity improve contrast?

9. What visual problem or problems appear when dominance is unclear?

10. What is one clear visual effect you observed from using contrasting hues?

Closing Thought

Contrast is strongest when power is restrained and organized. Mastering dominance allows you to use contrast deliberately, without chaos, discord, or aggression.

Optional: Attach or sketch your final contrast study in your sketchbook for future reference.

LESSON 4: DISCORD

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Purpose of This Exercise

This lesson explores **Discord**: the intentional reversal of natural color order used in very small quantities. When handled with restraint, discord creates vitality, sparkle, and pleasing visual tension. When overused, it quickly becomes unpleasant, confusing, or chaotic.

Your goal is to learn how **scale and control** determine whether Discord succeeds or fails.

Key Definition (after Rood/Carpenter)

Discord occurs when the natural order of color is reversed, but only when colors appear in small quantities.

Key Rule to Remember

What is unbearable in large areas can be beautiful in small ones.

Quantity, not brightness, governs discord.

Materials

- Pencil or pen
- Sketchbook and this worksheet
- Paints or printed color swatches (as provided)
- Neutral background (white, grey, or black)

Part 1: Reversal at Scale (The Danger Zone)

Choose a pair of colors from the Table of Simple Discords on page 56.

1. Which pair did you choose?

Pair: _____

LESSON 4: DISCORD

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Place the pair in large, reversed areas.

2. What do you observe?

(Check any that apply or describe.)

- ☐ **Visual discomfort**
- ☐ **Dirtiness or heaviness**
- ☐ **Aggression or confusion**
- ☐ **Collapse of harmony**

Notes:

Part 2: Reduction Test (Finding the Spark)

Using the same reversed pair, reduce one color to a very small quantity (dot, line, edge, or accent).

3. What changes when the scale is reduced?

(Check any that apply or describe.)

- ☐ **Increased brilliance**
- ☐ **Visual vibration**
- ☐ **Heightened interest**
- ☐ **Greater clarity or balance**

Notes:

LESSON 4: DISCORD

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Part 3: Discord Within Harmony

Begin with a harmonious pair or trio.

4. Describe the original harmony:

Introduce a **small discordant element** by reversing natural order locally.

5. What kind of discord did you add?

(Examples: light accent where dark is expected, dark interruption in a light harmony.)

6. What effect did the discord have on the harmony?

Part 4: Light vs. Dark Discord

Repeat one discord using a different tonal weight.

7. Test and observe:

☐ Light reversed accent

☐ Dark reversed accent

8. Which reached the danger zone faster, and why?

LESSON 4: DISCORD

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Part 5: Final Discord Study

Create a small final study using:

- One clear harmony
- One deliberate discord
- A Discord occupying minimal space
- No accidental hue contamination

9. Describe your final study:

Reflection

10. Why does Discord require restraint to succeed?

11. What visual warning signs tell you that discord has gone too far?

Closing Thought

Discord gives life to color relationships, but only when used sparingly. Mastery lies not in boldness alone, but in knowing how little is enough.

Optional: Attach or sketch your final Discord study in your sketchbook for future reference.

LESSON 5: PLANNING COHESIVE COLOR SCHEMES

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

Purpose of This Exercise

This lesson explores how you can use the principles of **Natural Color Order**, **Harmony**, **Contrast**, and **Discord**, drawing on the knowledge you've gained from previous lessons to identify and map the hues in your art compositions.

Key Definitions (after Rood/Carpenter)

***The Natural Order:** Yellow sits closest to white light. Violet sits closest to black. Between them, color deepens along natural paths through reds and blues.*

***Harmony:** Adjacent (neighboring) hues in the spectrum form the simplest and most reliable harmonies, especially when arranged in natural order and supported by gradual changes in tone.*

***Contrasting** colors are those which, when placed side by side, intensify each other but do not change.*

***Discord** occurs when the natural order of color is reversed, but only when colors appear in small quantities.*

Materials

- Pencil or pen
- Notebook and this worksheet
- Color Wheel and Gray Scale Value Finder
- Reference Photos or still life set up

Part 1: Identify Key Colors

Carefully examine your reference photos or still life arrangement. Using your color wheel and knowledge of the Natural Order, identify and map out all of the hues present.

1. Which hues do you see?

Notes:

LESSON 5: PLANNING COHESIVE COLOR SCHEMES

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

2. What else do you observe: Contrast? Harmony? Discord?

Notes:

Part 2: Creating The Color Palette

Now that you have identified and mapped out the main hues in your composition, it is time to create your palette using the mediums of your choice.

3. Palette Planning

Choose your medium (Check any that apply or describe.)

- ☐ Colored Pencil
- ☐ Ink
- ☐ Pastels (soft or oil)
- ☐ Watercolors
- ☐ Acrylic Paint
- ☐ Oil Paint
- ☐ Underglaze (ceramics/pottery)
- ☐ Fabric (quilting or applique)
- ☐ Floss/Thread (embroidery)

Notes:

LESSON 5: PLANNING COHESIVE COLOR SCHEMES

Observation & Testing Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class/Section: _____

4. Color Mixing:

Now that you have chosen your mediums, pick the hues from your color box or kit. Arrange the colors according to their **Natural Order**.

- If using acrylic or oil paints, begin creating piles of mixed colors on your palette. Concentrate on getting the depth/values right, and then adjust the hues as needed.
- Use a similar approach with colored pencils, inks, pastels, watercolors, and underglazes.
- If using fabric and thread, arrange each piece by hue and value. Embroidery floss colors can be mixed. Use layering techniques to create rich texture and depth.

Part 3: Final Review

5. Project Completion

Complete your painting or other artistic composition, while adhering to the color principles you've learned and practiced from 'Suggestions for the Study of Colour.'

6. Finished Project Review

After using the key color principles from 'Suggestions for the Study of Colour', what was the end result? What did you gain from incorporating these exercises into your project?

Identifying colors in your composition was much easier.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Color planning and mixing required less effort, was less confusing, and you felt more confident.

☐ Yes ☐ No

The finished project is harmonious and turned out as you had envisioned it.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Final Thoughts/Notes: _____

