

## Art Lesson: Balloon Color Theory



Grades: N/A

Summary: Acrylic or tempera painting of overlapping primary colors to create a secondary color

Artist: Disney/Pixar Animation Studio's movie **Up (2009)**

Objective: Learn how to mix primary colors to create secondary colors and tertiary colors.

Technical Method Level: Beginner/Intermediate

Time: 50 – 60 minutes

**History of the Movie:** **Up** is a 2009 3D computer animated comedy-drama adventure film produced by Pixar Animation studios and Walt Disney.

The movie was directed by Peter Docter & Bob Peterson. The film centers around an elderly widower named Carl and a young "Wilderness Explorer" (like the Boy Scouts) named Russell. Carl ties thousands of balloons to his home as he sets out to fulfill his dream to see South America to complete a promise, he made to his late wife Ellie.

Docter began working on the story in 2004. The story is based on fantasies he had of escaping, when life became too painful or irritating as a child. He and eleven other Pixar artists spent three days in Venezuela, gathering research and inspiration for the film. The designs of the characters were caricatured and stylized considerably, and animators were challenged to create a realistic fabric that moved naturally.

**Color:** Also referred to as hue, color is the appearance of an object created by the quality of light it reflects or emits. Colors all come from the three primary colors: red, yellow, blue, black and white.

**Discussion Points:** In painting and other fine arts, there are three primary colors: red, blue and yellow. These are called primary colors because the colors cannot be created by mixing other colors. **Secondary colors:** green, orange and purple are created by mixing two primary colors. **Tertiary Colors:** amber, vermilion, magenta, violet, teal and chartreuse are created by mixing two secondary colors. You will be learning about the correct way to mix paint to create secondary colors. How do different colors make you feel? Do colors make you sad? Happy?

Why do you think signs that are a warning usually in red? One theory is that **red** colors are scattered least by fog or smoke, making it easy to see even when far away. A second theory is nature uses **red** as a warning color because it stands out most vividly against a green background.

### Fun Facts:

- To create the famous scene of the house floating off into the sky animators used 10,000 to 20,000 balloons.
- Early concepts for the movie involved a floating castle.
- The movie made \$735 million dollars.
- The filmmakers visited the Sacramento Zoo to observe a bird that Kevin was based on.
- A running joke involving Dug and the dog pack losing concentration at the mention of "Squirrel!" is now a metaphor for distraction in popular culture. When someone is not paying attention or is distracted another person may yell out, "Squirrel!" to get their attention.



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### Art Supplies:

- 8 ½ x 11 canvas, watercolor paper or cardstock
- Balloon templates (Included)
- Pencils
- Black Markers
- Q-tips
- Scissors
- Palettes or paper plates for mixing paint
- Acrylic or Tempera paint (red, blue, yellow and white)
- Paint brushes (small and medium)
- Cups for water
- Watercolor paint (light blue)
- Popsicle sticks

**Art Prep:** Print out the balloon templates.

### Art Directions:

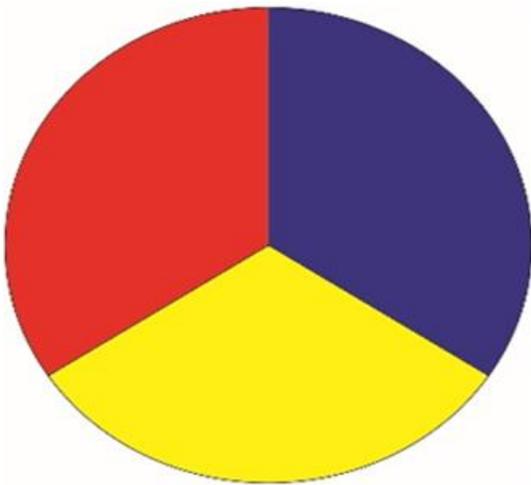
1. Place the paper down horizontally (long ways).
2. Cut out a small and a large balloon.
3. Trace a large balloon on the right edge of the paper, make sure it is half off the paper.
4. Trace a smaller balloon overlapping the large balloon and a little lower on the paper.
5. Trace another large balloon on the left side of the paper.
6. Trace two more balloons that overlap each other on the paper.
7. If you choose you can add a few other balloons to the paper. Consider tracing a balloon half off the edge so the art project is aesthetically pleasing to the eye.
8. Pick a set of overlapping balloons and write the letter "R" for red on one balloon and the letter "Y" for yellow on the second balloon. The space where the two balloons overlap write the letter "O" for orange.
9. Do the same steps for a red balloon "R" and a blue "B" and the overlap is purple "P". Next write a "B" for a blue balloon, a "Y" for a yellow balloon and the overlap is green "G".
10. Use the black permanent black marker strings to each of the balloons. Do not trace the balloons.
11. Use the watercolor paints and paint the background a shade of light blue. Do not paint it dark blue.
12. Paint the balloon with the letter "R" red. Do not paint the overlap.
13. Paint the balloon next to it with the letter "Y" yellow. Do not paint the overlap.
14. To make the color orange you mix the same amount of yellow and red. Mix the colors with a popsicle stick.
15. Paint the overlap section of the red balloon and yellow balloon orange.
16. Paint the balloon with the letter "B" blue. Do not paint the overlap.
17. Paint the balloon next to it with the letter "Y" yellow. Do not paint the overlap.
18. To make the color green mix the exact amount of blue and yellow. Mix the colors with a popsicle stick.
19. Paint the overlap section of the blue balloon and the yellow balloon green.
20. Paint the balloon with the letter "R" red. Do not paint the overlap.
21. Paint the balloon next to it with the letter "B" blue. Do not paint the overlap.
22. To make color purple you need to mix the exact amount of blue and red. Mix the colors with a popsicle stick.
23. Paint the overlap section of the blue balloon and the red balloon.
24. Feel free to paint the other balloons any of the secondary or primary colors.
25. Dip your Q-tip into the white paint and draw a small line and then do a few rainbow shapes on top. Fill in the clouds by dabbing with the Q-tip. You should be able to see blue also. Add 2 -3 more clouds.
26. Finally draw some reflections on the balloons. Make sure all of the reflections are on the same side of the balloons. The reflections should look like a semi-colon (;).

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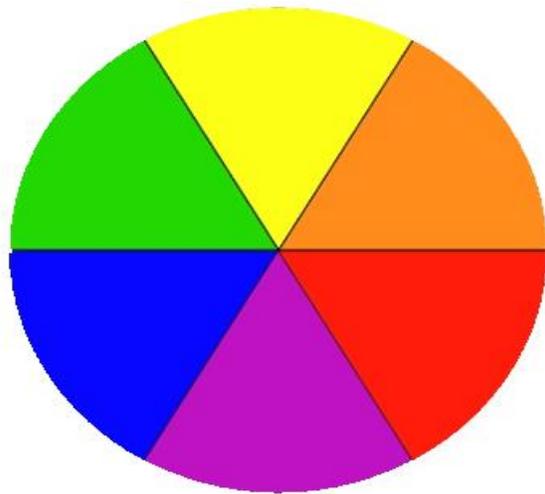
### Tips and Art Tricks

- Consider doing the art project with secondary color balloons and overlap would be the tertiary colors.
- Permanent markers will not bleed when using watercolor paints. You can use regular markers if you draw the strings last.
- When mixing secondary and tertiary colors try to use equal parts of each color.
- It is recommended to use acrylic or tempera paints.

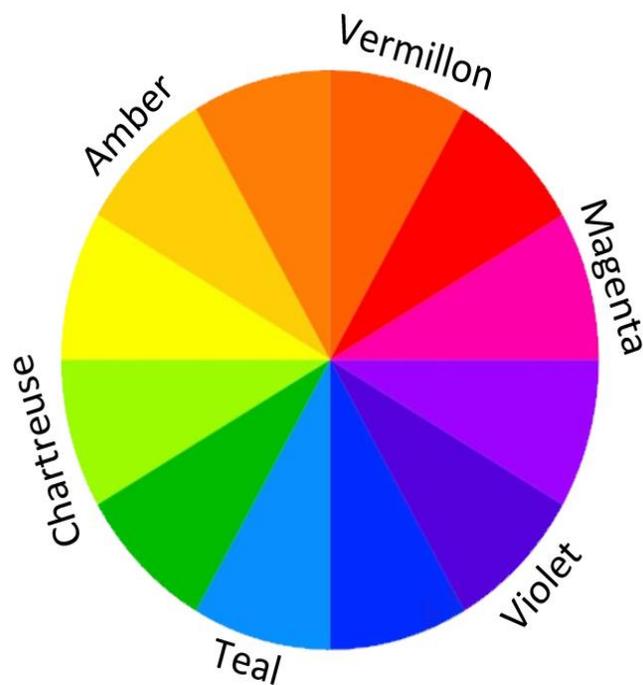
**Primary Color Wheel**



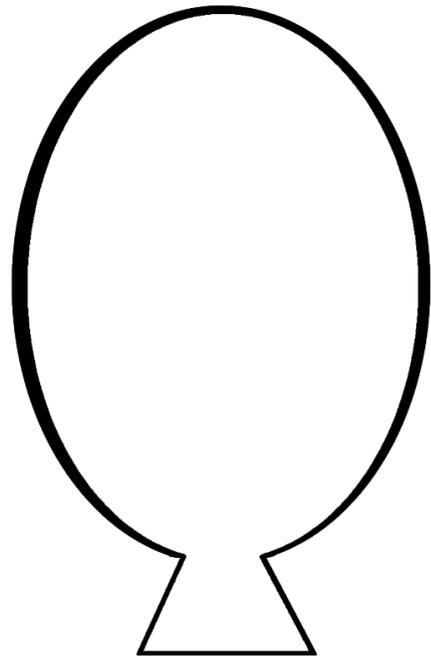
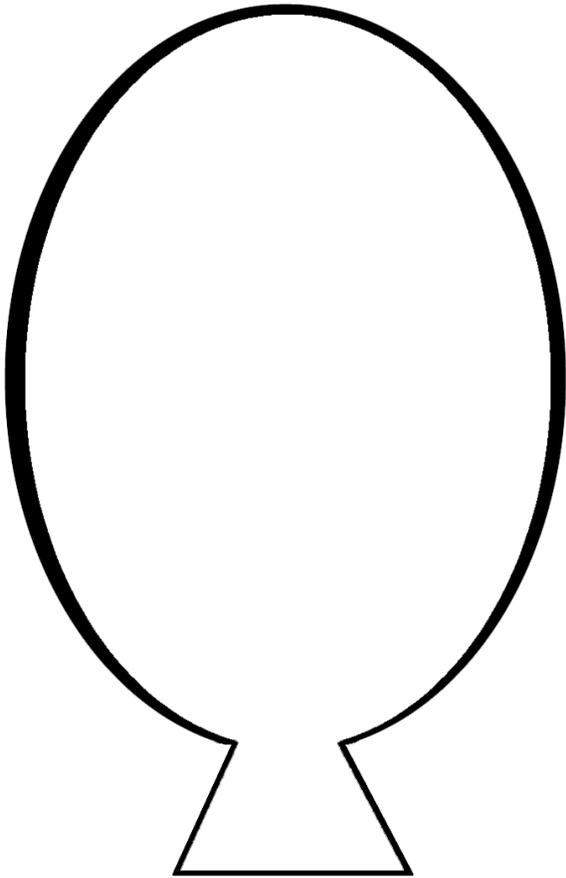
**Secondary Color Wheel**



**Tertiary Color Wheel**



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Students Working on their art projects:

