



Introducing the elements of art at Fulbourn Primary School

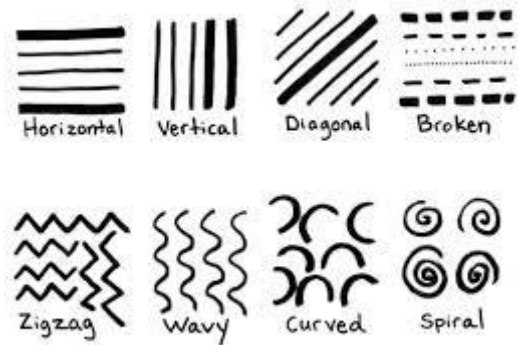
Artwork is made up of different elements, often used together to make a final piece of art. The elements are tools that artists can use to communicate a message in their work. There are seven common elements of art:

- Line
- Shape
- Form
- Colour
- Space
- Texture
- Value

When making art, artists use each element intentionally for different stylistic effects. Analysing the elements is an important part of our art curriculum – helping children to develop their understanding of how artworks are created, and affording them ever increasing choice in how they develop their own pieces.

Line

A line is a mark that is longer than it is wide. A line can be created using materials, such as a pencil, pen or a brush dipped in ink. A line can be straight or curved. It can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal and can change direction.



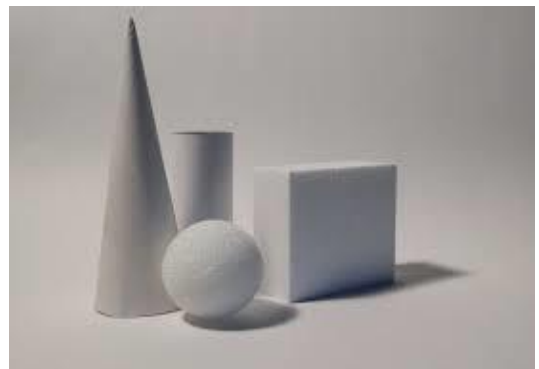
Shape

A shape is flat and is created by a closed line. The shape might be an outline or filled in with solid colour, shading or a pattern. Shapes can be geometric, like squares or triangles. They can also be irregular or natural shapes, such as puddles or leaves.



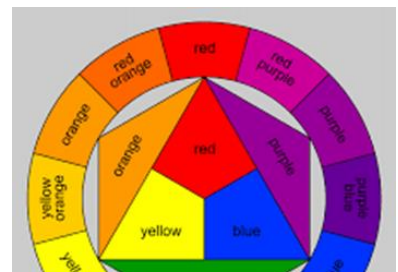
Form

Form is a three-dimensional shape. It may be a regular shape, such as a cube or pyramid, or an irregular, organic shape. Form can be expressed in 3D, such as in a sculpture. Artists can also use tone and perspective to create an illusion of form in a 2D artwork.

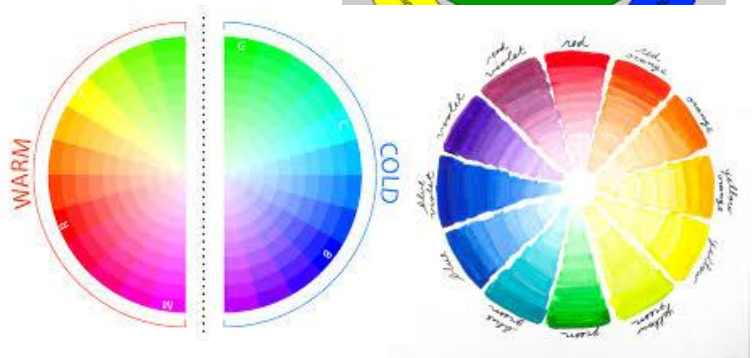


Colour

Every hue, tint, tone and shade that we see. There are three primary colours: red, yellow and blue. Mixing two primary colours together creates a secondary colour: orange, purple or green. Tertiary colours are created by mixing a primary and a secondary colour together.

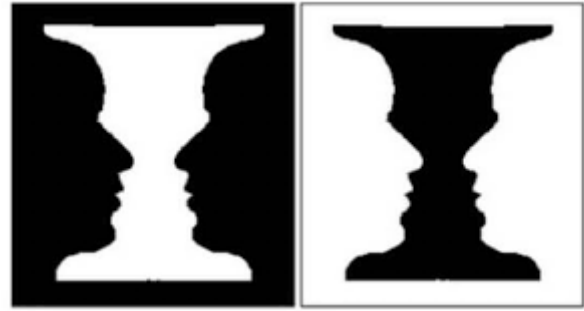


A colour wheel can be used to show which colours are harmonious when placed together. Warm colours are red and include oranges, yellows and browns. Cold colours are blue and include greens and violets. Black, white and grey are neutral colours.



Space

Space is the area around or between objects. Space includes the background, foreground and middle ground. A space can be negative or positive.



Texture

Texture refers to the surface quality of something and the way it feels. Actual texture really exists and you are able to touch it, e.g. the texture of different fabrics in a collage. Visual texture is an illusion of texture, created using lines, shapes, colours or tones. A texture can look different to how it really feels, e.g. a drawing of a sheep might look fluffy but the paper feels smooth to the touch.



Value

Value is the lightness or darkness of a colour – and is sometimes referred to as 'tone'. High value is light, with white being the highest. Low value is dark and black is the lowest. Using different values creates contrast which helps the viewer to see and understand the image, such as in a black and white photograph. Lighter areas are called highlights and darker areas are called shadows.

