



# How Primary and Secondary Colours Work Together

KS2 ART & DESIGN

KS3 SCIENCE

Ages 9-14



3 min read

## What Are Primary Colours?

**Primary colours** are the three colours that cannot be made by mixing other colours together. They are **red**, **blue**, and **yellow**. Every other colour you see can be created by mixing these three colours in different amounts.

Think of primary colours like the basic building blocks of a house. You can't break them down further, but you can combine them in lots of different ways to build something new and different.

Think of it like... the three primary colours are like three LEGO bricks in different colours. You can't make those three colours from other bricks, but you can click them together to make new colour combinations.

## What Are Secondary Colours?

**Secondary colours** are made by mixing two primary colours together. When you mix **red and yellow**, you get **orange**. **Blue and yellow** make **green**. **Red and blue** create **purple**. These three secondary colours are just as important as the primary ones.

## How Do They Work Together?

Primary and secondary colours work together like a team. Artists use this knowledge to create paintings, posters, and designs that look amazing. If you want to make a certain shade of **orange** darker or lighter, you can add more red, or adjust the yellow. By understanding how primary colours mix, artists have total control over the colours they create.

Think of it like... making juice. If you mix lemon juice (yellow) and strawberry juice (red), you get a new flavour (orange). The more strawberry you add, the redder it gets. The more lemon, the yellower it gets.

When artists understand **colour mixing**, they can blend colours together smoothly, create new shades, and make their artwork more interesting and professional-looking. This is why learning about primary and secondary colours is so important in art class—it gives you the power to create any colour you can imagine.