

the Spectrum Of Light Energy

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0.0: Introduction

the discussion of color arose on a mailing list on the internet where subscribers are blind. I am blind, too, but had sight until I was about the age of eleven. Though I remember colors well, I also enjoy writing. So I started, some time ago, a file with color descriptions simply for my own personal use. The internet discussion, however, challenged me to expand my list to offer an explanation of color for those who have never seen. If you have any suggestions, resources to which I can refer, or additional input of any kind, please email me.

"The color of God" is not my own. I was reading a spy novel a long time ago and one of the characters was a former American astronaut. He had some sort of spiritual experience while in space and when he return, he apparently began to evolve, as it were, into some form of higher being. He asked someone, "What is the color of God." That's a good question. Maybe some of the following information will help answer that question.

0.1: Contact Information

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0.2: Definition Of Terms

Spectrum Defined.

The distribution of energy emitted by a radiant source, as by an incandescent body, arranged in order of wavelengths.

Light Defined.

A Electromagnetic radiation that has a wavelength in the range from about 3,900 to about 7,700 angstroms and that may be perceived by the unaided, normal human eye.

Angstrom.

A unit of length equal to one hundred millionth (10⁻⁸) of a centimeter, used to specify radiation wavelengths. Named after Anders Jonas Angstrom 1814-1874.

Color Defined.

Visible energy.

1.0: Red

Red is a dark color and normally used in the context of something bright. Apples, ketchup and blood are generally used to reference the color red.

* Descriptions Of Red.

Apple Red. Dark red to pale red.
Bay. Reddish brown.
Beet Red. Dark red.
Blood Red. Dark red or crimson.
Burnt. Reddish brown or dark reddish orange. See (sienna).
Burnt Rose. A dark brownish red.
Cardinal. A bright red.
Cherry Red. Bright to moderate red.
Copper Red. Very dark red but more brown than red.
Coral. A deep or strong pink to moderate red or reddish orange.
Crimson. A deep purplish red.
Fiery Red. Reddish yellow but red is predominate.
Hot Pink. Bright strong pink.
Mahogany. Moderate reddish brown but often more brown than red.
Maroon. A dark reddish brown to dark purplish red.
Neon Pink. Glowing illuminating pink.
Pink. Very light red, close to white.
Puce. A deep red to dark grayish purple.
Raspberry Red. A deep purplish red.
Rose. Light red to dark red.
Ruby. A dark or deep red to deep purplish translucent red.
Ruddy. Reddish in color.
Rusty. Reddish brown.
Scarlet. A strong to vivid red or reddish orange.

Strawberry. Reddish; light red to dark pink.
Sun Burst Red. Bright illuminated red.
Tomato Red. Strong Red.
Vermilion. Bright red.

2.0: Blue

Blue is normally considered to be a dark color but, as with all colors, it can also be many shades from light to dark. The sky and the ocean are predominately blue.

* Descriptions Of Blue.

Aquamarine. Bluish Green.
Azure. A light purplish blue.
Baby Blue. Light to pale blue or greenish or purplish blue.
Cobalt Blue. Glassy or ceramic blue.
Cornflower Blue. Powdery light blue.
Diamond Blue. Sparkling blue and translucent.
Egg Shell Blue. Normally considered a light shade of blue.
Electric Blue. Bright metallic illuminating blue.
Ice Blue. Glassy, transparent or translucent blue.
Indigo. Blue to grayish purple blue.
Metallic blue. Silvery, or somewhat reflective, blue.
Midnight Blue. Dark blue; almost black.
Navy Blue. A dark grayish blue.
Neon Blue. Glowing illuminating blue.
Ocean Blue. Normally considered a darker shade of blue.
Peacock Blue. A moderate to strong greenish blue.
Powder Blue. A light pale blue.
Rich Blue. Bright clear blue.
Robin Egg Blue. A very pale, or light, blue.
Royal Blue. A deep to strong blue.
Sapphire. A rich blue. sometimes a light green mixed.
Sky Blue. Deep blue to light or pale blue. Normally dark blue.
Turquoise. Bluish green.

3.0: Green

Green is the color of fresh grass, evergreen trees, and most leaves on trees before they turn different colors in the fall. Generally, grass is somewhat a lighter shade of green than tree leaves but grass can be very dark at times.

* Descriptions Of Green.

Apple Green. A moderate or vivid yellow green to light or strong yellowish green.
Alpine Green. A fresh bright green.
Bottle Green. Light to moderate green.
Celery Green. A pale green.
Chartreuse. A strong to brilliant greenish yellow to moderate or strong yellow green.
Cyan. Greenish blue.
Electric Green. Metallic illuminating bright green.

Emerald. A strong yellowish green.
Evergreen. Fresh dark green.
Forrest Green. Bright green.
Hunter Green. Dark green.
Jade. Pale green.
Kelly Or Kelly Green. A strong yellowish green.
Khaki Green. Olive Green.
Lime. Yellowish green but leaning toward yellow.
Metallic Green. Silvery, or somewhat reflective, green.
Mint Green. Pale to light green.
Moss Green. A moderate yellow green to grayish or moderate olive
or dark yellowish green.
Olive. Yellowish green. Normally green is the dominate color.
Pea Green. Moderate to dark green.
Pine Green. A fresh dark green.
Sea Green. Greenish blue.
Spring Green. Fresh new light to medium green.
Teal. Moderate bluish green to greenish blue.
Turtle Shell Green. Light to dark green.

4.0: Yellow

Yellow is between white and brown. Examples of yellow are
The sun, bananas, butter and cheese.

* Descriptions Of Yellow.

Amber. Brownish yellow.
Apple Yellow. Normally a light to dark yellow or yellowish
green. Banana Yellow. Moderate to light yellow.
Bisque. Pale orange yellow to yellowish gray. Also, moderate
yellowish pink.
Blond. Light yellow or light golden.
Burnt Yellow. Dark brownish yellow.
Butter Yellow. A moderate to rich yellow.
Buttercup Yellow. Glossy yellow.
Butterscotch Yellow. Golden or light brownish yellow.
Canary Yellow. Bright vivid yellow.
Corn Yellow. White to moderate yellow.
Eggshell. A pale yellow to yellowish white.
Egg Yoke Yellow. Strong yellow.
Flaxen. Pale yellow.
Gold Or Golden. Yellowish brown.
Goldenrod. Yellowish gold.
Honey. Yellowish or brownish or golden.
Jaundice. Yellowish.
Lemon Yellow. A brilliant, vivid yellow to greenish yellow.
Mustard Yellow. A dark yellow to light olive brown.
Peach. Light to strong yellowish pink or light orange.
Pumpkin Yellow. Yellowish orange to orange yellow.
Sallow. Sickly yellowish in hew.
Salmon. A moderate, light, or strong yellowish pink to a
moderate
reddish orange or light orange. Similar to shades of peach.
Sun Burst Yellow. Bright illuminating yellow.
Sun Flower Yellow. Brilliant yellow to strong or vivid yellowish

orange.
Topaz. Yellowish gold.
Wheat. Golden yellow.
Xanthous. Yellow. Light brown or yellowish.

5.0: Black

Black is a dark color. If all colors are mixed, black is the result. Darkness is called black and the night is called black if it is a starless moonless night. In other words, black is the absence of light. Ink is often referred to when describing black as well as oil from oil wells. "Black as coal" is often used when describing the color black.

* Descriptions Of Black.

Charcoal. Normally black or grayish black.
Coal. Very black and dull; no shine.
Dusky. The darker shades of twilight; shadowy grays and dark blues and purples.
Ebony. Dark black.
Inky. Normally dark black or bluish black.
Jet Black. Dark, normally shiny or polished and solid black.
Raven. Very dark black.
Sable. Normally black. sometimes grayish yellowish brown.
Shadowy. Absence of color. Darker than dusky.
Somber. Dark or dull in color.

6.0: Brown

Brown is between black and yellow. It is a soft color. Earth tones are usually shades of brown. Soil and dirt, leaves which have turned in the fall season, and most woods are shades of brown.

* Descriptions Of Brown.

Aeneous Or Aeneus. A brassy or golden green color.
Almond. A pale tan to light brown.
Auburn. A moderate reddish brown to brown.
Aureate. A golden color.
Beige. Light grayish brown or yellowish brown to grayish yellow.
Brass. Between brown and gold. Often polished and shiny.
Bronze. Yellowish olive brown.
Brunette. Dark brown.
Chestnut. A moderate to deep reddish brown.
Chocolate. Normally light brown but can be dark.
coco. Light to dark brown.
Coffee. Darker shades of brown to deep brown.
Dun. A color ranging from almost neutral brownish gray to dull grayish brown.
Ginger. a strong brown.
Hazel. A light to strong brown or yellowish brown.
Honey. yellowish, brownish, golden.
Leathery Brown. Light to dark brown.

Mole. Light brown to dark gray.
Mud. Light to dark brown.
Khaki. Ranging from light olive brown to yellowish brown.
Mahogany. A moderate reddish brown.
Sandy. Light grayish to light brown or yellowish brown.
Sienna. Brownish yellow to brownish orange.
Tan. Very light brown.
Taupe. Brownish gray to dark yellowish brown.
Tawny. Light brown to brownish orange.
Toast. Light brown.
Umber. Natural earth Brownish.

7.0: White

White is the color of newly fallen snow. Shining stars are called white in a dark nights sky and though the moon can appear anywhere from almost yellow to light orange, it is normally considered to be white. Milk is also white but not as pure as snow white.

* Descriptions Of White.

Alabaster. Translucent or tented white.
Albescent. A moderately white color; fair, whitish.
Caucasian. White but generally used as a generic color of white.
Chalky. Normally pale or dull white. Can be grayish yellow.
Creamy. A pale yellow or off white.
Dove White. A soft shade of white.
Egg Shell White. Normally considered an off white.
Iron. Silvery white or light gray.
Ivory. Normally considered a creamy white or off white but can be a pale or grayish yellow as in the case of an elephant's tusk.
Lily White. Pure white.
Milky. Off white or a darker white.
Mother Of Pearl. Yellowish white, grayish or silvery white.
Pale. Whitish; off white; less than pure white.
Pallid. Off white; less than pure white.
Pearl. Off yellow turning to pale or creamy white.
Platinum White. A metallic white.
Sallow. Sickly yellow in hew, pallid.
Snow White. Normally considered a pure white.
Vanilla White. Strong white.
Wan. Pale.

8.0: Gray

Gray is difficult to describe. It is a color half way between black and white. It can be many shades of darker white. It is often called a soft color and sometimes is called an earth tone. The term, for example, "grey light," is in reference to a color that is nondescript but has the quality of light without distinction of color.

* Descriptions Of Gray.

Ashen. Lacking color or slightly grayish.
Brindle. Grayish with stripes or spots of a darker color.
Clay. Light brown to light or dark gray.
Fawn. A grayish yellowish brown to light grayish or moderate reddish brown or moderate yellowish pink.
Gun Metal Gray. A metallic darker shade of gray.
Haze. Grayish.
Pearl Gray. Off white. A light gray, from yellowish to light bluish gray.
Pewter. Silver gray.
Pigeon Gray. Any various shades of gray from light to dark.
Powder Gray. A lighter shade of gray.
Slate. A dark gray to bluish gray.
Steel. A medium gray.
Steel Gray. A dark gray to almost a light purple.

9.0: Purple And Violet

Purple and violet are mixtures of red and blue and are darker colors. Purple is between violet and red and often contains more red than does violet. Plums are purple when fully ripe.

* Descriptions Of Purple And Violet.

Burgundy. A dark grayish or blackish purple to dark purplish red or reddish brown.
Lavender. A light purple to very light or very pale violet.
Lilac. A pale to light or moderate purple.
Magenta. A moderate to vivid purplish red, or dark to strong reddish purple.
Mauve. A brilliant violet to strong or brilliant purple to moderate reddish purple.
Mulberry. Dark purple; almost black at times.
Orchid. A pale to light purple, from grayish to purplish pink to a strong reddish purple.
Plum. Deep purple.
Raspberry. A moderate to dark or deep purplish red.
Royal Purple. A deep to strong purple.
Violet. Reddish blue, purplish red.

10.0: Orange

Orange is a color between red and yellow. The orange fruit is unique in its color and is the best example of this color. The setting sun can appear orange as it approaches the horizon and may also turn bright red before dropping below it. These same color changes in the sun appear during sunrise as well. The shift in colors of the sun is largely due to atmospheric conditions, airborne microscopic dust particles, and light refraction from moisture in the air. The sun's rays filter through the elements in the atmosphere and the result is the change in the sun's color. Its basic color is, however, almost always referred to as yellow and that is its predominate color

during the majority of the day.

* Descriptions Of Orange.

Apricot. A moderate, light, or strong orange to orange yellow.

Burnt Orange. A dark brownish reddish orange.

Ocher. Moderate orange yellow.

Saffron. Strong to moderate orange yellow.

Tangerine. A strong reddish orange to strong or vivid orange.

11.0: Notes

Achromic means Having no color or something that is colorless. Calico means multi colored or spotted. Glassy is shiny, normally polished, in appearance. Vitreous also refers to a glassy appearance. Enamel is a glassy transparent coating over metals or ceramics giving the objects a shiny and polished appearance. Silver is metallic in nature and has reflective properties. It can be polished until it appears almost white, to some degree, but it is not a color of the rainbow spectrum. Silver was used on the backs of clear glass to create mirrors. Because of the glass and the silver's ability to be highly polished, it would reflect images. Argent is silver or something resembling it. Argentite is a valuable silver ore, with a lustrous, lead gray color.

The word "transparent "is colorless and something through which light is able to pass with little, or no, obstruction. A windowpane is a good example of something transparent. Translucent means light can pass through but generally nothing can be clearly seen through the translucent object. Many precious stones are translucent. Objects made of crystal, quartz, or diamond would fall into this category. Opaque, on the other hand, is neither transparent nor translucent. It could be described as cloudy or murky and that which is able to block out most light. Hazy, or something that is Hazy, is grayish and misty and thus mostly opaque.

12.0: Metals

Note. Metals are often used to describe color.

* Descriptions Of Metals.

Brass. Between brown and gold.

Bronze. A moderate yellowish to olive brown.

Copper. A reddish brown metallic element.

Iron. A silvery white, lustrous, malleable, metallic element.

Lead. Bluish white.

Nickel. A silvery, hard, ductile, ferromagnetic metallic element.

Platinum. Steel white.

Silver. A lustrous white, ductile, malleable metallic element.

Tin. Silvery metallic.

Zinc. A bluish white, lustrous metallic element.

13.0: Precious and Semi-precious Stones

Note. As with metals, precious stones are likewise used when referring to color.

* Descriptions Of Precious And Semi-precious Stones.

Agate. A fine grained, fibrous variety of chalcedony with color banding or irregular clouding.

Amethyst. A purple to violet transparent quartz.

Basalt. A hard, dense, dark volcanic rock composed chiefly of plagioclase, augite, and magnetite and often having a glassy appearance.

Beryl Stone. Sometimes pale green or perhaps yellow.

Carbuncle. A deep red garnet.

Carnelian Or Cornelian. A pale to deep red or reddish brown variety of clear chalcedony, used in jewelry.

Chert. Any of various microscopically crystalline mineral varieties of silica. A siliceous rock of chalcedonic or opaline silica occurring in limestone.

Chryselephantine. Made of gold and ivory.

Chrysoberyl. A green to yellow vitreous mineral used as a gemstone.

Chrysoprase. An apple green chalcedony used as a gemstone.

Crystalliferous Or Crystalligerous. Producing or containing crystals.

Crystalline. Pertaining to or made of crystal. Resembling crystal and transparent.

Crystallite. Any of numerous minute rudimentary, crystalline bodies found in glassy igneous rocks.

Diamond. An extremely hard, highly refractive colorless or white crystalline.

Emerald. A brilliant, transparent green beryl used as a gemstone. It is a strong yellowish green.

Garnet. Any of several common, widespread silicate minerals, occurring in two internally isomorphic series, generally crystallized, often imbedded in igneous and metamorphic rocks, colored red, brown, black, green, yellow, or white, and used both as gemstones and as abrasive. Also a dark to very dark red.

Garnetiferous. Containing garnets.

Garnierite. An earthy, apple green mineral.

Jacinth. A blue precious stone.

Jasper. An opaque variety of quartz, reddish, brown, or yellow.

Krustallos. Crystal.

Onyx. A kind of chalcedony that occurs in bands of different colors and that is used as a gemstone.

Opal. A translucent mineral of hydrated silicon dioxide, often used as a gem.

Quartz. A hard, crystalline, vitreous mineral silicon.

Quartziferous. Containing quartz.

Quartzite. A metamorphic rock resulting from the recrystallization of quartz sandstone.

Sapphire. A blue gem stone.

Sapphirine. Resembling sapphire: A rare light blue or green aluminum magnesium silicate mineral.

Sard. A clear or translucent deep orange red to brownish red chalcedony.

Sarda. A type of precious stone.

Sardonyx. An onyx with alternating brown and white bands of sard and other minerals.

Topaz. A blue, yellow, brown, or pink aluminum silicate mineral, often found in association with granitic rocks and valued as a gemstone in the brown and pink varieties. Topaz stones are generally golden in appearance.

Turquoise. Blue to greenish blue mineral used as a gem stone.

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