

Disclaimer: NOTE TO STUDENTS: This information is not "authoritative" - I am not an expert on this topic. This page was created first for my students to give them an awareness of symbolism of colors in different cultures. Some of the listings come from Pagan/Witchcraft sites which would not be acceptable for my students to view from school (sites would be blocked now by filtering software) - so I copied the lists (without permission). If you are doing research - look for sources that have been researched and can be verified. ~Judy Decker -Mrs. Green

Color Symbolism:

Color is considered one of the most useful and powerful design tools you have. People respond to different colors in different ways, and these responses take place on a subconscious, emotional level. In our American culture, black has long been associated with death, while white is believed to signify life and purity. In the Orient, however, white is the traditional color of mourning. In the United States, black has also come to suggest sophistication and formality. Americans generally associate trust and stability with the color blue, while Koreans have this reaction to pink and other pastel colors.

In the Western Culture:

Red, White and Blue reminiscent of the American flag, immediately convey notions of patriotism and, to some extent, conservatism.

Blue, Red, White and Grey = Stability, Power, Trustworthiness, Conservatism

Blues and Aquas = water and coolness

Primary colors (Red, Blue, Yellow) = Convey fun

Native American Color Symbolism

Colors in Native American culture often symbolize different things from culture to culture....African cultures have different meanings....and so on. Colors symbolize different qualities in various European cultures.

Cherokee

Blue represented North which meant cold, defeat and trouble..

Navajo Meanings of Colors

This information was posted to Getty Teacher Art Exchange by Christine Merriam
The Four Sacred Mountains and directions are associated with colors. The Navajos belief is that their Creator placed them on the land between the following 4 mountains representing the 4 cardinal directions:

Blue: Mount Taylor (Tsoodzil - Blue Bead or Turquoise Mountain) Sacred Mountain of the South north of Laguna, New Mexico

The principal colors, white, blue, yellow and black are linked to the four sacred mountains as well as the directions-

Native American Color Symbolism (varies by ethnic group - this source was not "authoritative")

Blue (Intuition): Using intuition to teach and serve

Asian Color Symbolism

Blue: Self-cultivation, wealth

Astrological Color Associations (this source was not "authoritative") (SIGN--COLOR)

Virgo -- Pale Blue or Violet
Capricorn -- Brown or Blue
Aquarius -- Dark Blue

Color Therapy - Color and the Brain

Specific colors have different effects (list copied from Biopulse.org)

Blue: calming, lowers blood pressure, decreases respiration

Blue is the overwhelming "favorite color." Blue is seen as trustworthy, dependable, and committed. Blue is the least "gender specific" color, having equal appeal to both men and women.

The color of ocean and sky, blue is perceived as a constant in our lives. As the collective color of the spirit, it invokes rest and can cause the body to produce chemicals that are calming. However, not all blues are serene and sedate. Electric or brilliant blues become dynamic and dramatic — an engaging color that expresses exhilaration. Some shades or the overuse of blue may come across as cold or uncaring.

Indigo, a deeper blue, symbolizes a mystical borderland of wisdom, self-mastery, and spiritual realization. While blue is the color of communication with others, indigo turns the blue inward to increase personal thought, profound insights, and instant understandings.

HOW THE COLOR BLUE EFFECTS US PHYSICALLY

- Calms and sedates
- Cools
- Aids intuition

CHAKRA COLORS: BLUE IS THE COLOR OF THE THROAT CHAKRA



Blue is the color of the Throat Chakra, also known as Visuddha. This chakra is located in the throat. It is linked to the throat, neck, hands, and arms. The Throat Chakra is connected with speech and hearing, and encourages spiritual communication. Opening the Throat Chakra is said to improve clairaudience.

Gemstones that will aid the Throat Chakra include turquoise and aquamarine.

THE MEANING OF BLUE AROUND THE GLOBE

- In Chinese culture, colors corresponded with the five primary elements, the directions, and the four seasons. Blue was associated with wood, east, and spring.
- Blue, blue-green, and green are sacred colors in Iran, where they symbolize paradise.
- In India, paintings of the god Krishna often depict him as having blue skin.
- In the United States, post office mailboxes are typically blue.
- In Mexico, blue is the color of mourning.
- In Aztec culture, blue symbolized sacrifice.
- In Greece, the color blue is believed to ward off “the evil eye.” Those who believe in this Greek superstition often wear a blue charm necklace or blue bracelet for protection.

POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS OF BLUE

- Blue represented the Union (North) during the American Civil War.
- The color blue represents the U.S. Democratic Party and beginning with the 2000 presidential election, states that favored the Democratic candidates began being referred to as “blue states,” while those that favored the Republican candidates were referred to as “red states.”
- In the U.S. Congress, the Blue Dog coalition is a caucus of conservative Democrats.

INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT BLUE

- President Martin VanBuren is credited with introducing blue into the decorating scheme of the White House in 1837 and since then, there has been a “blue room” in the White House.
- Blue is one color that means “low” or “guarded” in the color-coded threat system established by presidential order in March 2002. This system quickly informs law enforcement agencies when intelligence indicates a change in the terrorist threat facing the United States.
- Blue is the favored color choice for toothbrushes.
- Powder blue is often used in products to promote cleanliness and purity.
- IBM’s Deep Blue became the first computer to win a chess tournament against a reigning world champion chess master. Deep Blue had 32 processors and processed about 200 million chess moves per second in its historic six-game match against Garry Kasparov. Today, Blue Gene is the fastest supercomputer in the world and the descendent of Deep Blue. It uses 131,000 processors to routinely handle 280 trillion operations every second.
- The blue ribbon has been widely recognized as a national symbol of child abuse awareness.
- Over the past decade, scientists have reported the successful use of blue light in the treatment of a wide variety of psychological problems, including addictions, eating disorders, and depression.
- People are often more productive in blue rooms.
- The highest quality ultramarine blue is made with powdered lapis lazuli from Afghanistan.
- The 1993 film “Blue” consists entirely of the color blue with narration and soundbytes.

- “Alice Blue” is a light blue-gray or steel blue color that was favored by Alice Roosevelt Longworth, daughter of Theodore Roosevelt; it sparked a fashion sensation in the United States.
- Mosquito’s are attracted to the color blue twice as much as to any other color.
- In ceramics, a variety of ingredients — including cobalt oxide, copper carbonate, and iron oxide — produce the blue colors. The different variations are produced when each ingredient is combined with other materials or with each other. The application, thickness of the glaze, how it is applied, and the type of clay used also have an impact on the final color after firing. Unlike paint, raw glazes look nothing like their final appearance after firing.
- Blue Tigers (Maltese Tigers) have been sporadically reported in the mountains of the Fujian province in China. They are described as bluish-grey or slate-blue with white patches on the face and black stripes.
- Pablo Picasso’s “Blue Period” refers to a series of paintings in which the color blue dominates and which he painted between 1901 and 1904. The Blue Period is a marvelous expression of poetic subtlety and personal melancholy and contributes to the transition of Picasso’s style from classicism to abstract art.

Light blue is associated with health, healing, tranquility, understanding, and softness.

Dark blue represents knowledge, power, integrity, and seriousness.

MOOD:
