

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:

Purple and Gold are often associated with Royalty, wealth and opulence (luxury)

Purple and Yellow and other pastels colors represent Easter.

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

Purple (Wisdom): Gratitude/healing

### Asian Color Symbolism

Purple: Wealth

**Astrological Color Associations** (this source was not "authoritative")

(SIGN--COLOR)

Gemini -- Red or Purple

Virgo -- Pale Blue or Violet

Libra -- Violet

Sagittarius -- Orange or Purple

Pisces -- White or Purple

### Color Therapy - Color and the Brain

Specific colors have different effects (list copied from [Biopulse.org](http://Biopulse.org))

Violet: suppresses appetite, provides a peaceful environment, good for migraines

### Roses – Flower Colors & Meanings



lilac & purple

Thought to be almost mystical in nature, with symbolism tied to enchantment, desire and even proceeding cautiously, it's not surprising that lilac and purple roses send a message of love at first sight, A great Valentine flower.

Purple embodies the balance of red's stimulation and blue's calm. This dichotomy can cause unrest or uneasiness unless the undertone is clearly defined, at which point the purple takes on the characteristics of its undertone. With a sense of mystic and royal qualities, purple is a color often well liked by very creative or eccentric types.

#### HOW THE COLOR PURPLE AFFECTS US PHYSICALLY

- Uplifts
- Calms the mind and nerves
- Offers a sense of spirituality
- Encourages creativity

#### CHAKRA COLORS: PURPLE IS THE COLOR OF THE CROWN CHAKRA



The Crown Chakra, also known as the Sahasrara, is located at the top of the head. It is linked to the crown of the head, the nervous system, and the brain, and is representative of pure thought. This chakra connects one with the infinite consciousness. Opening this chakra will help tap into a deep spiritual understanding. Gemstones that will aid the Crown Chakra include amethyst and clear quartz.

#### THE MEANING OF PURPLE AROUND THE GLOBE

- In Thailand, purple is worn by a widow mourning her husband's death.
- The purple in the U.S. military Purple Heart award represents courage. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the United States armed forces who have been wounded in action.
- In Tibet, amethyst is considered to be sacred to Buddha and rosaries are often fashioned from it.
- A man with the rank of Roman Emperor was referred to as "The Purple" — a name that came from the color of the robe he wore.
- In Japan, the color purple signifies wealth and position.
- Purple was the royal color of the Caesars.
- In pysanky, the traditional Ukrainian form of egg dying, purple speaks of fasting, faith, patience, and trust.
- Purple denotes virtue and faith in Egypt.
- In Tudor Britain, violet was the color of mourning, as well as the color of religious fervor.
- Traditionally, in Iran, purple is a color of what is to come. A sun or moon that looks purple during an eclipse is an omen of bloodshed within the year.

## RELIGIOUS & MYTHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH PURPLE

- Purple is representative of “pride” in Christianity.
- In Christianity, purple is associated with Advent and Lent.
- Catholic priests wear purple vestments before performing Reconciliation.

## POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS OF PURPLE

- In the United States, a state with equal distribution of Republicans and Democrats is referred to as a “purple state.”
- Julius and Augustus Caesar, Emperors of Rome, both decreed that only the Emperor could wear purple. When Nero became Emperor, the wearing of purple and even the sale of purple was punishable by death! By the time of Alexander Severus, who was Emperor in Rome from 222 to 235 AD, all the workers who made Imperial Purple worked for the Emperor. Later, magistrates were allowed to wear togas decorated with purple ribbons.

## INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT PURPLE

- Purple was the color of the first dye made by man. It was called “Mauveine” and was made out of coal tar. The recipe was discovered by William Henry Perkin in 1856.
- Purple represents the planet Jupiter.
- February is the month associated with the color purple and the birthstone for those born in February is amethyst.
- Purple Stones: Amethyst, Ametrine, Sugilite, Lavender Jade, Sugilite, Selenite, Iolite, Lavender Quartz, Lepidolite
- The Byzantine emperor signed edicts in purple ink.
- Leonardo da Vinci believed that the power of meditation increases ten times when done in a purple light, as in the purple light of stained glass.
- Purple is the color of Madison Square Garden and seating for VIP’s was once covered in purple.
- Purple is the color of the highest denomination poker chip = \$5,000
- During the Silver Age of comic books, those with purple on their covers sold better.
- In stained glass, the color purple or violet is seen as uniting the “wisdom” of blue and the “love” of red and symbolizes justice and royalty.
- The “Purple Orchid Three” is a sweet potato grown by its Hainan developers from seeds taken into space in 2005 on China’s “Shenzhou VI” rocket.

**Purple** combines the calm stability of blue and the fierce energy of red. The color purple is often associated with royalty, nobility, luxury, power, and ambition. Purple also represents meanings of wealth, extravagance, creativity, wisdom, dignity, grandeur, devotion, peace, pride, mystery, independence, and magic.

**The color purple** is a rare occurring color in nature and as a result is often seen as having sacred meaning. Lavender, orchid, lilac, and violet flowers are considered delicate and precious.

**The color purple** has a variety of effects on the mind and body, including uplifting spirits, calming the mind and nerves, enhancing the sacred, creating feelings of spirituality, increasing nurturing tendencies and sensitivity, and encouraging imagination and creativity.

**Purple** is associated spirituality, the sacred, higher self, passion, third eye, fulfillment, and vitality. Purple helps align oneself with the whole of the universe. Different shades, tints, and hues of purple have different meanings. Light purple hues represent feminine energy and delicacy, as well as romantic and nostalgic feelings. Dark purple hues evoke feelings of gloom, sadness, and frustration. Bright purple hues suggest riches and royalty.

**Light purple or lavender** is a feminine, graceful, elegant color that has long been associated with refined, wealthy women. While the color purple represents royalty, lavender represents beauty and femininity. Lavender is considered to be the “grown-up” pink. Its lighter lavender shades have a sacred place in nature, with lavender, orchid, lilac, and violet flowers considered delicate and precious. The color lavender suggests uniqueness and specialness without the deep mystery of the color purple.

Too much **purple** brings out qualities of irritability, impatience, and arrogance. Too little purple brings out feelings of powerlessness, negativity, and apathy.

Because **the purple color** is created by combining a strong warm with a strong cool color, the color retains both warm and cool properties. On one hand, the color purple can boost imagination and creativity, on the other, too much purple can cause moodiness.

Throughout history, **purple** robes were worn by royalty and people of authority or high rank. Many believe this to be true because the rare occurrence of purple in nature made it one of the most expensive color dyes to create. The United States Military awards the Purple Heart to soldiers wounded in battle. In Thailand, purple is the color of mourning for widows.

**Purple or violet gemstones** are believed to increase your imagination, remove perceived spiritual obstacles, calm confrontations, and re-energize the learning of new things.

#### **Other meanings associated with the color purple:**

- The phrase “*purple cow*” refers to something remarkable, amazing, unique, stand-out, eye-catching, or unusual.
- The term “*purple prose*” is used in reference to large exaggerations, lies, and highly imaginative writings.

#### **Additional words that represent different shades, tints, and values of the color**

**purple:** violet, plum, lavender, lilac, puce, thistle, orchid, mauve, magenta, royal, amethyst, wine, pomegranate, eggplant, mulberry, plum, lilac, thistle, orchid, mauve, purple.

**Light purple** evokes romantic and nostalgic feelings.

**Dark purple** evokes gloom and sad feelings. It can cause frustration.

MOOD:

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