

Alternate Color Name Diagrams for the *Geological Rock-Color Chart*

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The *Munsell Soil-Color Charts* (Munsell Color 2009b) were originally designed for soil scientists, but have been adopted by archaeologists for describing color in a variety of contexts, including artifacts. Unfortunately, the range of hues in these charts does not include all the colors encountered in archaeology.

The following charts have been designed especially for archaeologists to insert into the *Geological Rock-Color Chart* (Munsell Color 2009a). For the names on these charts, precedence is always given to those included in the *Munsell Soil-Color Charts* because of their long-standing use in archaeology. Where these do not exist, the ISCC-NBS system is followed (Kelly and Judd 1976), a nomenclature employed by many other disciplines. While the names on the diagrams included with the *Geological Rock-Color Chart* are based on the ISCC-NBS system, they depart from it in many instances (Goddard *et al.* 1963). This compromise will provide archaeologists with an objective color terminology, while remaining consistent with past publications.







To use these name diagrams, print the file at 100% scale, cut along the outer line of each page, and punch holes through the circles on the right. Then insert each page into the *Geological Rock-Color Chart*, facing the appropriate hue page. Color notations can then be matched with names in the same way as with the original name diagrams.

The author hopes that this system proves useful for the communication of color in archaeology (and perhaps other disciplines), and would welcome correspondence at the address above.







References

- Goddard, E. N., P. D. Trask, R. K. DeFord, O. N. Rove, J. T. Singewald, Jr., and R. M. Overbeck. 1963. *Rock-Color Chart*. New York: The Geological Society of America.
- Kelly, K. L., and D. B. Judd. 1976. *Color: Universal Language and Dictionary of Names*. U.S. National Bureau of Standards Special Publication 440. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce.
- Munsell Color. 2009a. *Geological Rock-Color Chart*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Munsell Color.
- Munsell Color. 2009b. *Munsell Soil-Color Charts*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Munsell Color.






Alternate Color Names for the
Geological Rock-Color Chart (Munsell Color 2009)

5R 8/2 Light Pink	5R 7/4 Pale Red	5R 6/2 Pale Red	5R 6/6 Light Red	5R 5/4 Weak Red	5R 4/2 Weak Red	
5R 4/6 Red	5R 3/4 Dusky Red	5R 2/2 Blackish Red	5R 2/6 Very Dark Red	10R 8/2 Pinkish White	10R 7/4 Pale Red	
10R 6/2 Pale Red	10R 6/6 Light Red	10R 5/4 Weak Red	10R 4/2 Weak Red	10R 4/6 Red	10R 3/4 Dusky Red	
10R 2/2 Dark Grayish Reddish Brown	5YR 8/4 Pink	5YR 7/2 Pinkish Gray	5YR 6/4 Light Reddish Brown	5YR 5/2 Reddish Gray	5YR 5/6 Yellowish Red	
5YR 4/4 Reddish Brown	5YR 3/2 Dark Reddish Brown	5YR 3/4 Dark Reddish Brown	5YR 2/2 Dark Grayish Brown	10YR 8/2 Very Pale Brown	10YR 8/6 Yellow	
10YR 7/4 Very Pale Brown	10YR 6/2 Light Brownish Gray	10YR 6/6 Brownish Yellow	10YR 5/4 Yellowish Brown	10YR 4/2 Dark Grayish Brown	10YR 2/2 Very Dark Brown	
5Y 8/4 Pale Yellow	5Y 7/2 Light Gray	5Y 7/6 Yellow	5Y 6/4 Pale Olive	5Y 5/2 Olive Gray	5Y 5/6 Olive	

Alternate Color Names for the
Geological Rock-Color Chart (Munsell Color 2009)

5Y 4/4 Olive	5Y 3/2 Dark Olive Gray	10Y 8/2 Pale Yellow Green	10Y 7/4 Grayish Greenish Yellow	10Y 6/2 Light Grayish Olive	10Y 6/6 Dark Greenish Yellow	
10Y 5/4 Light Olive	10Y 4/2 Dark Grayish Olive	5GY 7/2 Grayish Yellow Green	5GY 7/4 Moderate Yellow Green	5GY 5/2 Grayish Green	5GY 3/2 Very Dark Grayish Green	
10GY 7/2 Pale Green	10GY 6/4 Moderate Yellowish Green	10GY 5/2 Grayish Green	10GY 4/4 Dark Yellowish Green	10GY 3/2 Dark Grayish Green		
5G 7/2 Pale Green	5G 7/4 Light Green	5G 6/6 Light Green	5G 5/2 Grayish Green	5G 5/6 Moderate Green	5G 3/2 Very Dark Grayish Green	
10G 8/2 Very Pale Green	10G 6/2 Pale Green	10G 4/2 Grayish Green	5BG 7/2 Pale Green	5BG 6/6 Light Bluish Green	5BG 5/2 Grayish Green	
5BG 4/6 Moderate Bluish Green	5BG 3/2 Dark Grayish Green	5B 8/2 Very Pale Blue	5B 7/6 Light Greenish Blue	5B 6/2 Pale Blue	5B 5/6 Moderate Greenish Blue	
5PB 7/2 Pale Blue	5PB 5/2 Grayish Blue	5PB 3/2 Dark Grayish Blue	5P 6/2 Pale Purple	5P 4/2 Grayish Purple	5P 2/2 Blackish Purple	

Alternate Color Names for the
Geological Rock-Color Chart (Munsell Color 2009)

5RP 8/2 Pale Purplish Pink	5RP 6/2 Pale Purple	5RP 4/2 Grayish Purple	5RP 2/2 Blackish Purple			
5B 9/1 Bluish White	5G 8/1 Light Greenish Gray	5GY 8/1 Light Greenish Gray	5Y 8/1 White	5YR 8/1 White	5B 7/1 Light Bluish Gray	
5YR 6/1 Gray	5Y 6/1 Gray	5GY 6/1 Greenish Gray	5G 6/1 Greenish Gray	5B 5/1 Bluish Gray	5G 4/1 Dark Greenish Gray	
5GY 4/1 Dark Greenish Gray	5Y 4/1 Dark Gray	5YR 4/1 Dark Gray	5G 2/1 Greenish Black	5GY 2/1 Greenish Black	5Y 2/1 Black	
5YR 2/1 Black						
N9 White	N8 White	N7 Light Gray	N6 Gray	N5 Gray	N4 Dark Gray	
N3 Very Dark Gray	N2 Black	N1 Black				