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Color • Post • Tag

Coloring Animal Eyes, Scales, Fur and Armor:

If you look closely, animals have such different eyes! Some have huge pupils and some small; some are slit while others are round. Some fur is short, some long. In the following lessons you will discover various key characteristics of each species. You can use this invaluable information when you color any animal or draw your own.

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Wolf

You will need:

- The "Animal Eyes" line art page
- Prismacolor Premier:
916, 1002, 943, 1082, 935, 1065, 140
- Kneaded eraser to lighten (optional)
- Mono Zero eraser pen for mistakes (optional)
- Uniball Signo white gel pen
- Black waterproof pen such as Copic, Faber-Castell or Micron (optional)

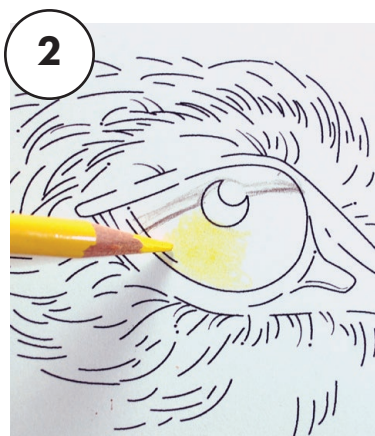


Did you know?

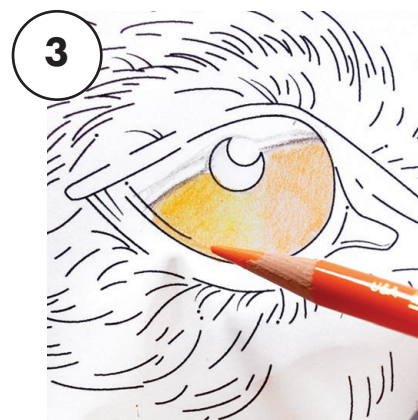
When you color hair or fur, remember that the thickest part is at the root; it gradually narrows. Placing your pencil at the root – lifting it off the page gradually will replicate this effect.



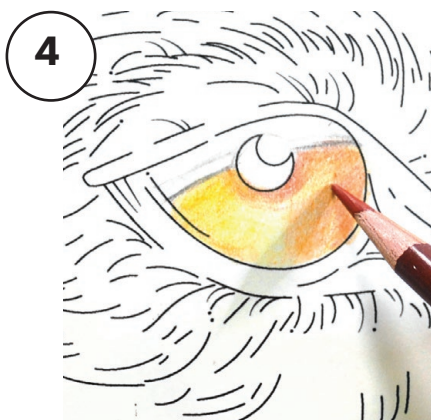
1 I begin by placing a thin curved line where my cast shadow will go. I skip over the pupil for now, but will end up coloring over it a little later. I grab my closest brown. Any brown will do as we will be covering it up. Keep it light.



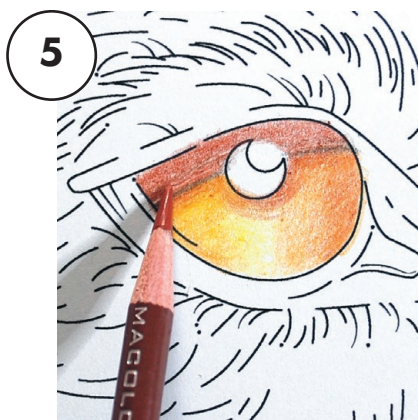
2 Next, below the line I draw, I add some Canary Yellow 916 on the left side of the pupil using small circles. This will be the brightest part of the entire iris (opposite the highlight), as light will shine through it.



3 I then add a little Yellowed Orange 1002 all the way to the left, overlapping the yellow just a little. I also fill in the whole right side very lightly, so as not to fill the tooth of the paper completely.

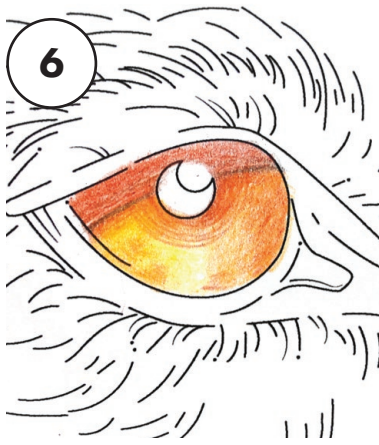


4 Next, I add a bit of contrast by circling under the pupil shape and coloring the right edge with some Burnt Ochre 943. I try to blend it a bit so that there is a soft transition between colors.



5 I then fill in the whole top portion of the iris with the same pencil, using a light hand.

More in the Book: *The Secrets of Coloring*



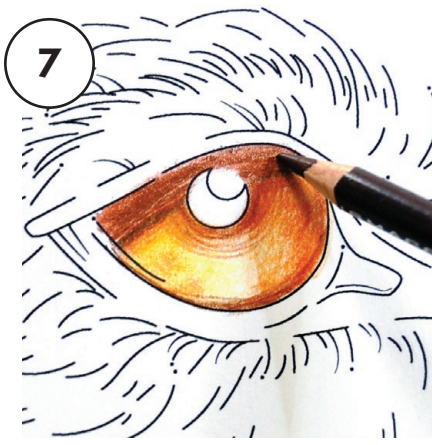
Now, to give the eye a little character, I add some patches of the 943 on the yellow area.



I fill in the whole area surrounding the eye with Cold Grey 70%, 1065. I leave the area directly below the yellow as white for a highlight. I blend with little bent hatch lines of a sharp pencil downward into the fur, in a few spots.



Time for some warmth with the 1082. I use quick bent hatch marks, with a bottom-up motion, for each piece of fur above the eye. I use the opposite motion below the eye.



It is time to add more contrast. Chocolate 1082 is a warm brown, and will blend well here, only above the pupil. Don't try to fill it solid. It looks nice with the rusty tones showing through.



I use my Black again to create shadow in the fur above the eyelid – traveling up and down with zig-zag strokes towards the left.



I gently go over the strokes with some Eggshell 140 to connect the fur strokes and add some warmth. Next, I use a white gel pen to place a few white eyelashes over the shadow.



Then I go over the whole area with Black 935 – slowly building it up. You can use pencil or a black pen to fill in the pupil, like I did, for solid coverage. I also use black along the bottom edge of the iris.



I crisper the black edge of the iris, the tear duct to the right, and add black zig-zags under the eye, in the fur.



To do this, I start at the edge of the eyelid and hatch quickly downward. I also add in a few highlights where the shadow ends, so it pops!

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