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## Earth pigments

The earth pigments are a large and important group of pigments based on a wide range of minerals. As naturally occurring deposits, they are typically rich in the clay minerals, iron oxides and manganese oxides, but containing a wide variety of other mineral and even organic components.

Source: Eastaugh, Walsh, Chaplin, Siddall 146

Paint pigments prepared by grinding native iron containing minerals. Earth colors generally contain a mixture of iron oxides and other materials such as clay, chalk, and silica. The colors vary over the range from yellow, orange, red, brown, and black with each deposit having a unique color, composition, and working characteristics. Names for these colors include ocher, sienna, and umber. Earth colors have been used since prehistoric times and are permanent in all techniques. Synthetic iron oxides, called Mars colors, have been produced since the late 18th century.

Source: MFA

Pigments manufactured by refining naturally colored clays, rocks, and earth, and also the pure iron oxide reds, such as Indian red light red, etc. The iron oxides, although artificial counterparts, are classified with the native red earths. Earth colors are also classified as mineral pigments, along with the manufactured inorganic pigments. They are characterized by good light and heat fastness.

Source: Etherington & Roberts

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