

hiya! a lot of people come to me  
for tips with coloring dark skin, so  
i'm here with a little tutorial of sorts!

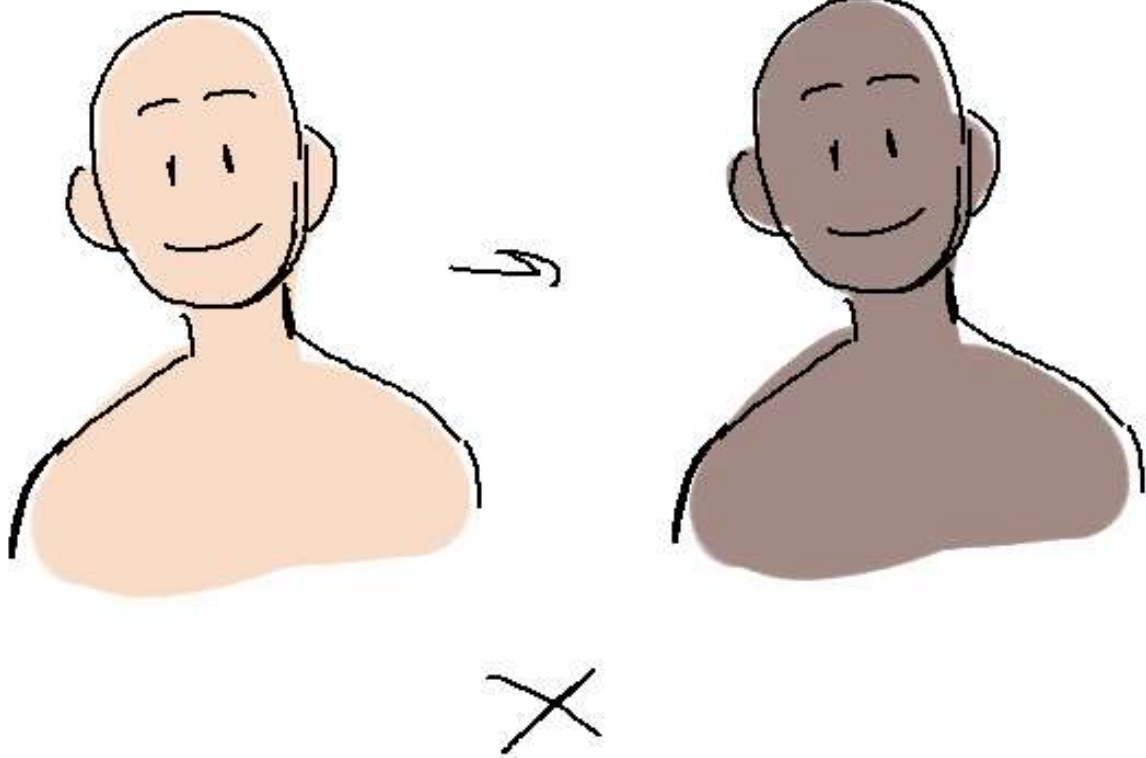


before you start writing an  
offended reply, lemme preface  
it with saying i don't think you're  
inherently a racist if you don't  
know how to color black skin.  
you probably just haven't  
practiced it enough!

here are some tips that  
help me!

coloring a dark character white first and then just color sliding and lowering the brightness...

usually ends up giving them a gross ashy look. try not to do this.



as for actually picking colors for dark skin... there probably is a more precise way of going about it, but I usually just kinda eyeball it until it looks natural, LOL

this comes from a lot of practice, though, so it'll probably take a while to get the hang of.



if it helps, though, my color choices are usually around this range if i'm working with a natural palette.



that being said, there isn't really 'one' correct color to use for black skin. black skin is very varied! play around with undertones, shades, etc. here's some examples!



medium-dark with pink undertone



medium-dark with red undertone



dark with warm undertone



light with warm yellowish undertone

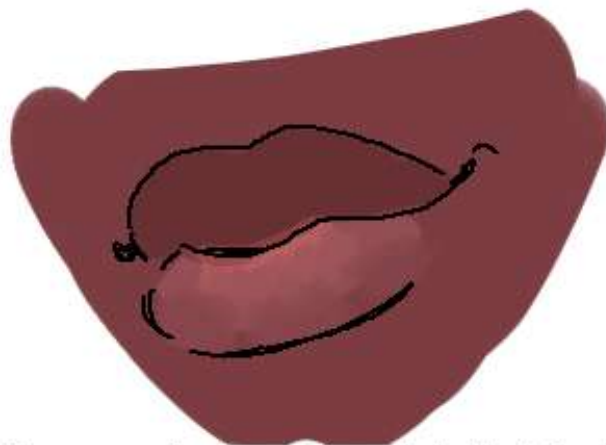


dark with cool undertone

black people's palms and the soles of their feet are typically lighter than the rest of their skin.

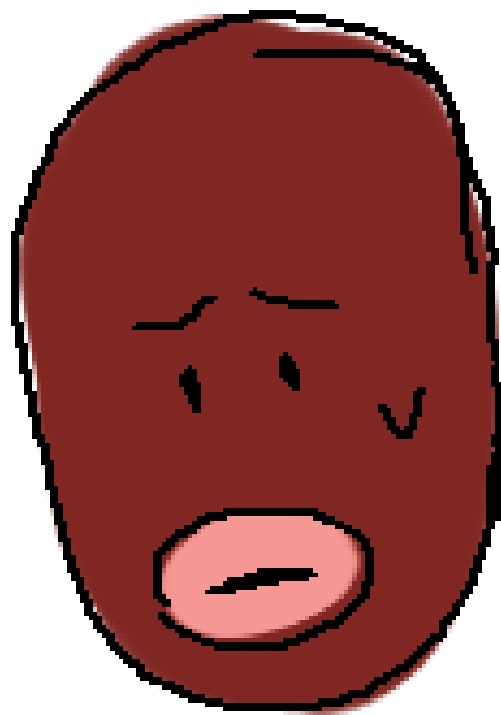


lips are a feature that varies a lot from person to person. some lips' color blend pretty well with the rest of their face's skintone, sometimes the upper lip is darker, sometimes the lower lip is lighter.



generally, a good rule of thumb is that the lower lip is pinker towards the inside of the mouth and gets darker outwards.

try not to give black people bright pink lips. it's not accurate, and it originates from offensive antiblack caricatures.





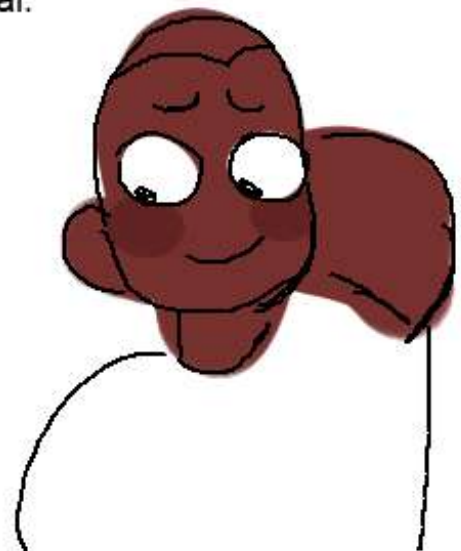
the darker your skin is,  
typically the less you  
show 'blush'.

...I still give dark  
characters a blush as  
a stylistic choice, though,  
lol

instead of putting a red  
overlay on top,



i usually use the character's  
skintone for the blush on a  
multiply layer and play with  
opacity until it looks more  
natural.







darker skin tends to reflect light.

instead of lightening the skin and whitewashing dark characters for lighting, treat the skin more like a reflective surface and show light bouncing off of it.



ORIG.



X



✓

study art of black people by  
black people!

seeing the way actual black  
people represent their own  
features is a good way to  
keep yourself from making  
caricatures.



the #drawingwhileblack tag on twitter is  
a good place to look for work by black  
artists!

above all else, obviously  
practice and studying actual  
black people will help the most.

good luck and get practicin!!!

