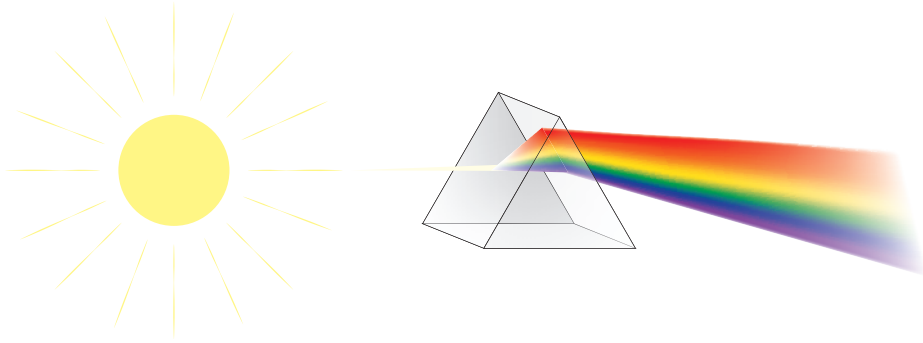


How Are Rainbows Formed?



Have you ever seen a rainbow? A rainbow appears when white light, like sunlight, passes through water or a prism that can refract the light. Refraction splits the light into its separate colors called spectrums. The colors of light's spectrums are red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet.

Try this science experiment:

On a hot summer's day, it is fun to play in the sprinklers. If you don't have sprinklers, you can use a spray bottle filled with water.

Outside, spray the water through an area where the sun is shining. Try to find the right angle to the sun where you can see a rainbow form. Try putting the water source in between you and the sun's rays.

(WARNING! Never look directly at the sun. It can hurt your eyes!)



Review what you read about rainbows by answering the following questions.

1. What are the colors of the rainbow?

red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet

2. Which is a rainbow made from?
(circle your answer)

leaves grass **light**

3. What are two kinds of things you can pass light through to form a rainbow?

water prism

Food for thought: What are other items you could use to pass light through to make a rainbow? Experiment!

Turn this page over and draw your own rainbow!