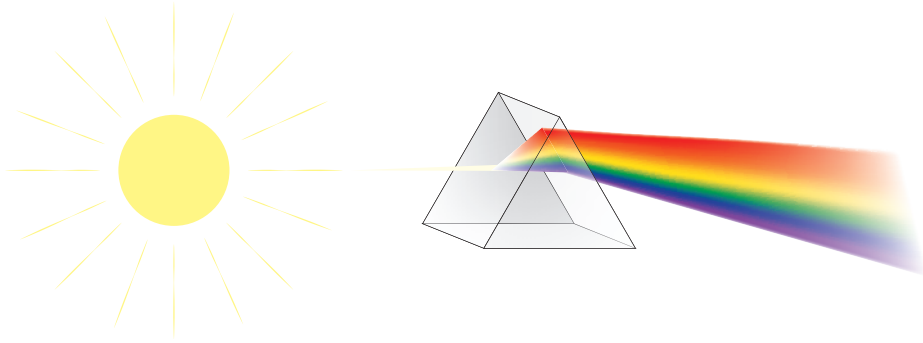


# How Are Rainbows Formed?



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?

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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?

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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!