Name: _____ Date: _____

A Rainbow Made by a Glass of Water

Circle group

Sunlight looks white. But it is a mix of many colors. You see the colors in a rainbow.

You can make colors too. Put a clear glass of water on a sunny windowsill. Light goes through the water. The light bends. Each color bends a different amount. The colors spread out. You may see a band of color on the wall.

Raindrops do this too. After rain, the sun shines through many drops. Each drop bends the light. It splits the light into colors. Together they make a rainbow.

The colors are always in the same order.

Questions

1. What is sunlight a mix of?

_____

_____

2. What do you put on a sunny windowsill?

_____

_____

3. What happens to light in the water?

_____

_____

4. What makes a rainbow in the sky?

_____

_____

5. Why do rainbows show up after rain?

_____

_____

Words to know

sunlight: the light that comes from the sun
bends: changes direction a little
windowsill: the flat shelf at the bottom of a window

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Rainbow Made by a Glass of Water

Triangle group

Sunlight looks white or yellow. But it is really a mix of many colors. You can see the colors in a rainbow.

You can make colors yourself. Set a clear glass of water on a sunny windowsill. Light shines through the water, and the light bends. Each color bends by a different amount. So the colors spread apart. With luck, a band of colors shows up on the wall.

Raindrops do the same job. After a rain shower, the sun may shine through many drops. Each drop bends the light and splits it into colors. Together they make a rainbow in the sky.

A rainbow always has the same colors in the same order. Red is on the outside, and violet is on the inside.

Questions

1. What is sunlight really a mix of?

_____

_____

2. What do you set on a sunny windowsill to make colors?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the light as it goes through the water?

_____

_____

4. What bends and splits sunlight to make a rainbow in the sky?

_____

_____

5. Why does a rainbow often show up just after a rain shower?

_____

_____

Words to know

sunlight: the light that comes from the sun
bends: changes direction a little
windowsill: the flat shelf at the bottom of a window
violet: a purple color

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Rainbow Made by a Glass of Water

Square group

Sunlight appears white or yellow, but it is really a blend of many different colors. You can see those colors spread out in a rainbow.

Sometimes you can create colors yourself. Set a clear glass of water on a sunny windowsill. Light shines through the water and bends, and each color bends by a slightly different amount, so the colors fan apart. With luck, a band of colors will appear on the wall or the floor.

Raindrops work in a similar way. After a rain shower, the sun may shine through millions of drops. Each drop bends the light and splits it into its colors, and together they form a rainbow across the sky.

A rainbow always shows the same colors in the same order. Red is on the outside, and violet is on the inside.

Questions

1. What is sunlight really a blend of?

_____

_____

2. What should you set on a sunny windowsill to create colors?

_____

_____

3. What happens to light as it shines through the water?

_____

_____

4. What bends and splits the sunlight to form a rainbow in the sky?

_____

_____

5. Why does a rainbow often appear just after a rain shower?

_____

_____

Words to know

sunlight: the light that comes from the sun
bends: changes direction a little
windowsill: the flat shelf at the bottom of a window
violet: a purple color

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: A Rainbow Made by a Glass of Water

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: A Rainbow Made by a Glass of Water

Easier · 97 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. Many colors.
2. A clear glass of water.
3. It bends, and each color bends a different amount.
4. Raindrops.
5. Many drops are still in the air for the sun to shine through.

Triangle: A Rainbow Made by a Glass of Water

This passage · 125 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. Many colors.
2. A clear glass of water.
3. It bends, and each color bends by a different amount.
4. Raindrops.
5. There are still many drops in the air for the sun to shine through.

Square: A Rainbow Made by a Glass of Water

Harder · 136 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.4

1. Many different colors.
2. A clear glass of water.
3. It bends, and each color bends by a different amount.
4. Raindrops.
5. Many drops are still in the air for the sun to shine through.