

# Rainbows



## What Are They?

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Rainbows are curved lines of color in the sky. They seem to appear magically during or after rain.

Sunlight is bent as it shines through **water vapor** in the air. The bent light makes the rainbow.

# What Makes the Colors?

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The light we see is **visible** or white light. The light is made of seven colors.

They are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, **indigo**, and **violet**.

Together they make up light's **spectrum**.

## Bending Light

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When white light is bent, we can see the whole **spectrum**.

The colors are always in the same order. You remember the order of the colors with the name ROY G. BIV.

## Where Are They?

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Look for rainbows when it is both raining and sunny. Turn your back to the sun. Look up in the sky. If there is enough **water vapor** to bend light, you might see a colorful rainbow.

## Where Do They Go?

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Rainbows appear only when enough **water vapor** is in the air. When the vapor dries, the rainbow will disappear. There is no longer water to bend the white light.

# Glossary Terms

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spectrum - the range of colors you can see when light shines through drops of water

indigo - a dark violet-blue color

violet - a blue-purple color

visible - something that is able to be seen

water vapor - water in the form of a gas; water vapor is tiny drops of water that cannot be seen

**“Rainbows.” *Science*. Capstone, [www.pebblego.com](http://www.pebblego.com). Accessed 18 May, 2020.**