

Rainbow

Lexile 690

A Did you know a rainbow is a full circle of light? But, because we look at a rainbow on the ground, we only see a semi-circle or **arc** of the rainbow. A rainbow is a multi-colored arc that forms in the sky. Also, a rainbow is not an object. It cannot be approached or physically touched.

B Rainbows can be seen not just in rain but also mist, spray, fog and dew. Rainbows are visible when there are water drops in the air and light shining from behind at the right angle. No two people see the same rainbow. Everyone's eyes see slightly different rainbows.

C Rainbows are created by **reflection** and light in water droplets. Most rainbows we see are primary rainbows. This is when the color red can be seen on the outer edge and violet on the inner edge.

D There are seven colors of the visible **spectrum** that together make up the white light. These are present in a rainbow. The order is: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. A good way to remember this is: ROY G BIV.

E The sky within a primary rainbow is brighter than the sky outside of the arc. This is because all the droplets that make the rainbow create a white light and overlap each other.

F There are other kinds of rainbows as well. You could see a **double rainbow**, **moonbow** or a **fogbow**. These rainbows have their own characteristics.



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