

Rainbow Hunt

This activity is a good introduction to the garden, yard, park, or open space near your home. It helps you develop the skill of observation for scientific exploration. This will slow everyone down and help them observe things they have never noticed before.

Now get outside!

Supplies:

1. Your nature journal or notebook
2. Pencil
3. Colored pencils, crayons, or markers
 - a. Or paint chips
4. Nature to observe

Steps:

1. Make your “rainbow pieces” if you need to.
 - a. Draw squares on a blank sheet of paper,
 - b. Color in each square (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet).
 - c. Cut out each square.
2. Put all of your “rainbow pieces” into your bag or basket and mix them up.
3. Close your eyes and pick out one piece of the rainbow.
4. Take your color with you and walk around your designated space and try to find an **EXACT** color match. You can tell it is the same color by putting your found item on top of or right next to your rainbow piece.
5. When you make an exact match lay it out on a flat surface.
6. Repeat until you have made an entire rainbow.
7. Make observations in your nature journal. Which colors were easy to find and match? Which ones were really hard? Did you notice anything new in your space? Draw pictures or glue your found nature objects into your journal (like a rainbow).

Share your nature journal with us! [Facebook](#) or Joy@acparks.org

Parent Resources:

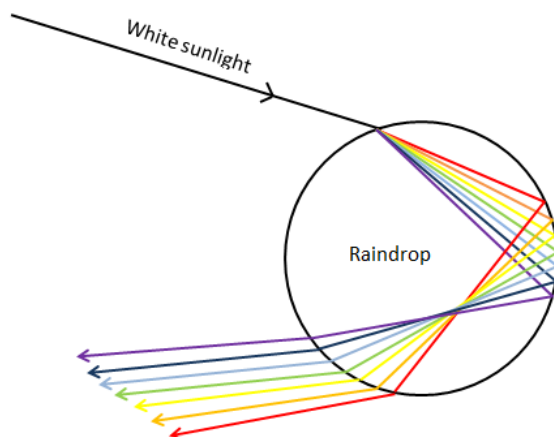
A rainbow hunt may seem simple, but it is more challenging than one would think. Help your child find the EXACT color of the “rainbow”. This can be as simple as a perfect flower match or as complicated as a dot on a rock. Children can do this activity on their own and then have you check their matches, either as they go or when they think they are completed. Emphasize the need for an EXACT match. The point is for your child to slow down and really see the space around them. Once they have all of their matches they can use their nature journal to draw, paste their rainbow in, or share their thoughts about the activity. Join in the hunt yourself, you may be surprised.

Life Lab (<https://www.lifelab.org/2020/05/rainbow-chips/>)

- The definitive resource for garden science exploration.

What is a rainbow?

A rainbow is, literally, bent light. It occurs when white light rays from the sun hit a raindrop and bends. This is called **refraction**. White light is made up of all of the colors. When a white ray hits a raindrop it bends, but each color has a different wavelength, so they bend differently and disperse creating a rainbow.



Things to ask your kids.

1. Was it easy or difficult to find all of the **exact** color matches? Why?
2. What color was the hardest to find?
3. What color was the easiest to find?
4. Which color did you find the most shades of?
5. Did you find all of your colors in nature or did you have to look at manmade items?
6. Do you think you will find the same colors all year long or would it change with the seasons?
7. What was your biggest surprise during this activity?