

★ Read this piece of explanation with someone at home to find out about rainbows:

## Rainbows

A rainbow is an arc of colour in the sky that can be seen when the sun comes out during or after a rainstorm.

### How a rainbow is formed

A rainbow is formed when a person sees the sun or a **light source** shining through rain drops

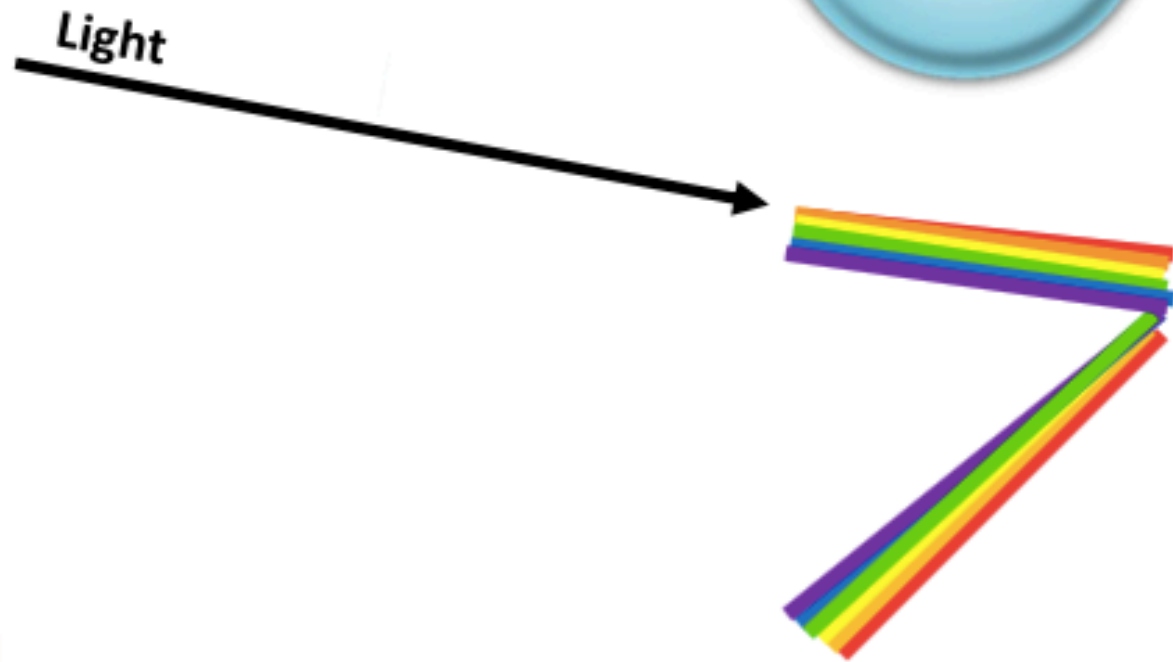


Photo by Italo Melo from Pexels

This type of rainbow is formed when sunlight strikes raindrops, at a forty two degree angle, in front of the people looking at it.



When the light strikes the drops, it changes and splits into colours, called a **spectrum**. These colours are bounced back to us so that we see a rainbow.



**What we see**



The colours of a rainbow are red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple.

## Where are rainbows?

The rainbow is an **optical illusion** which means that it tricks your eyes so that what you think you see is different from what is really there. Rainbows are not in a fixed spot in the sky as the appearance of a rainbow depends on where the person seeing it is and where the light is.

Rainbows are actually full circles but viewers on the ground can only see them above the **horizon**.



## Fascinating fact

A moonbow, also called a lunar rainbow, is a rainbow that is produced by light from the moon!

<b>glossary</b>	<b>( what the words mean)</b>
arc	A part of a line that forms the outside of a circle.
light source	The place or thing which you get light from.
horizon	The line in the far distance where the sky seems to meet the land or the sea.
spectrum	The range of different colours that you get when light passes through a glass prism or through a drop of water.

Now that you have read more information explaining about rainbows. Can you add more information to your notes?

The shape of a rainbow is....

The colours I can see are...

When there is a rainbow the weather  
is always...

Rainbows appear when...