

Rainbows are Everywhere.

Day 1

What IS a Rainbow?

'Raindrops blossom brilliantly in the rainbow, and change to flowers in the sod, but snow comes in full flower direct from the dark, frozen sky'. Quote by John Muir.

Let's consider when we usually see a 'real' Rainbow.

Real Rainbows appear in the sky when it's been raining first, and then the sun comes out.

Let's consider why and how they form?!

White light travels from the sun. We know that sunlight is made up of lots of different colours of light.

Each colour has a different wave length.

When the white light travels through the raindrops, it is bent (refracted).

It is also bounced off the inside of the raindrop (reflected).

This causes it to split up into all the different colours of the rainbow.



Here we are using a clear paperweight to act as a raindrop.

Can you see how it refracts and reflects the white light from the sun?

Can you now see some other colours?



Let's see if we can find anything else which is causing a rainbow effect.

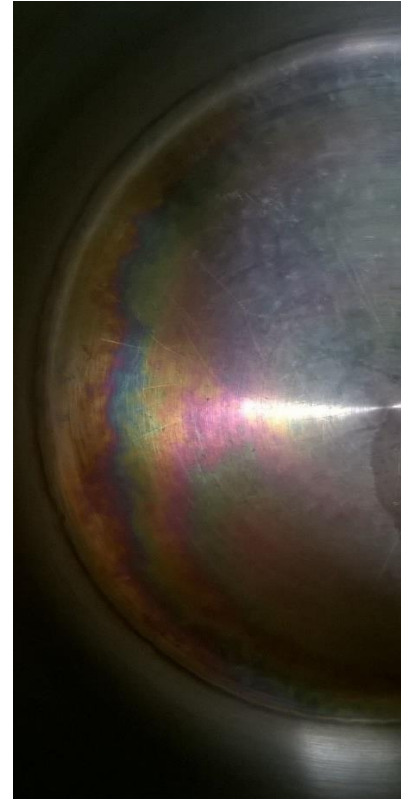
Perhaps you have bubbles at your home?



We found a rainbow effect in our washing up liquid bottle!

Where else might you see it?

We found one in the bottom of a pan!



You might see one at the garage where oil from an engine has collected in a puddle of rainwater?!

Do send us photographs of your rainbow effects!

Have fun!

ALSO.....

....do be extra careful NOT to leave clear paperweights, glass bottles or anything similar in the sunlight!



Forest fires are often started when people throw away bottles and other litter in wild places.

Let's remember to always take all our litter home.

