

Paper Rainbow K-5

Objective: Students will design and assemble unique paper sculptures celebrating the wonder of light bending to form a rainbow.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion:

Rainbow: an arch of colors formed in the sky in certain circumstances, caused by the refraction and dispersion of the sun's light by rain or other water droplets in the atmosphere.

ROYGBIV: the visible spectrum of light, stretching from red-orange-yellow-green-blue-indigo into violet.

Materials: white paper 3-5 pieces per student, rainbow variety of colored paper, scissors, glue/glue stick, popsicle stick, hot glue gun, string or twine.



Opening activity: Ask students: WHAT is a RAINBOW? Are the colors of the rainbow in any particular order? Share with them that a rainbow is formed when the sunlight (or, ANY light) enters a material (sunlight into WATER DROPLETS) JUST RIGHT, the material will BEND the light, causing it to split apart into all of the frequencies of colored light that form white light. You can share with them THIS video: <https://youtu.be/5pYnC-ONdXQ>

Core Activity: Distribute white paper to students, instruct them to cut the paper into BUBBLY shapes, they should have 5-10 bubbly shapes. These will be glued one on top of the next to add texture to the cloud, the BIGGEST piece on the BOTTOM. Using a hot glue gun- as an INSTRUCTOR, hot glue a strip of twine in two spots on the back of the bottom cloud piece, and then hot glue a popsicle stick over the spots of glue to help hold it in place. Do NOT let the students operate the hot glue gun, you will add the twine and the popsicle stick.

After students glue their clouds pieces together to form ONE cloud, distribute colored strips to the tables. Feel free to be creative about how you distribute the colors! Have students orient their strips according to ROYGBIV- some students will already know this, and will LOVE the opportunity to share it with others! They should glue their rainbow strips to the back of the last cloud so they hang down below the clouds, creating a rainbow of color streaming out of the cloud.

Reflection: Ask students- Why do we consider rainbows to be special, or magical? Do you think the rainbow visible to animals is any different from the rainbow WE see with our eyes?