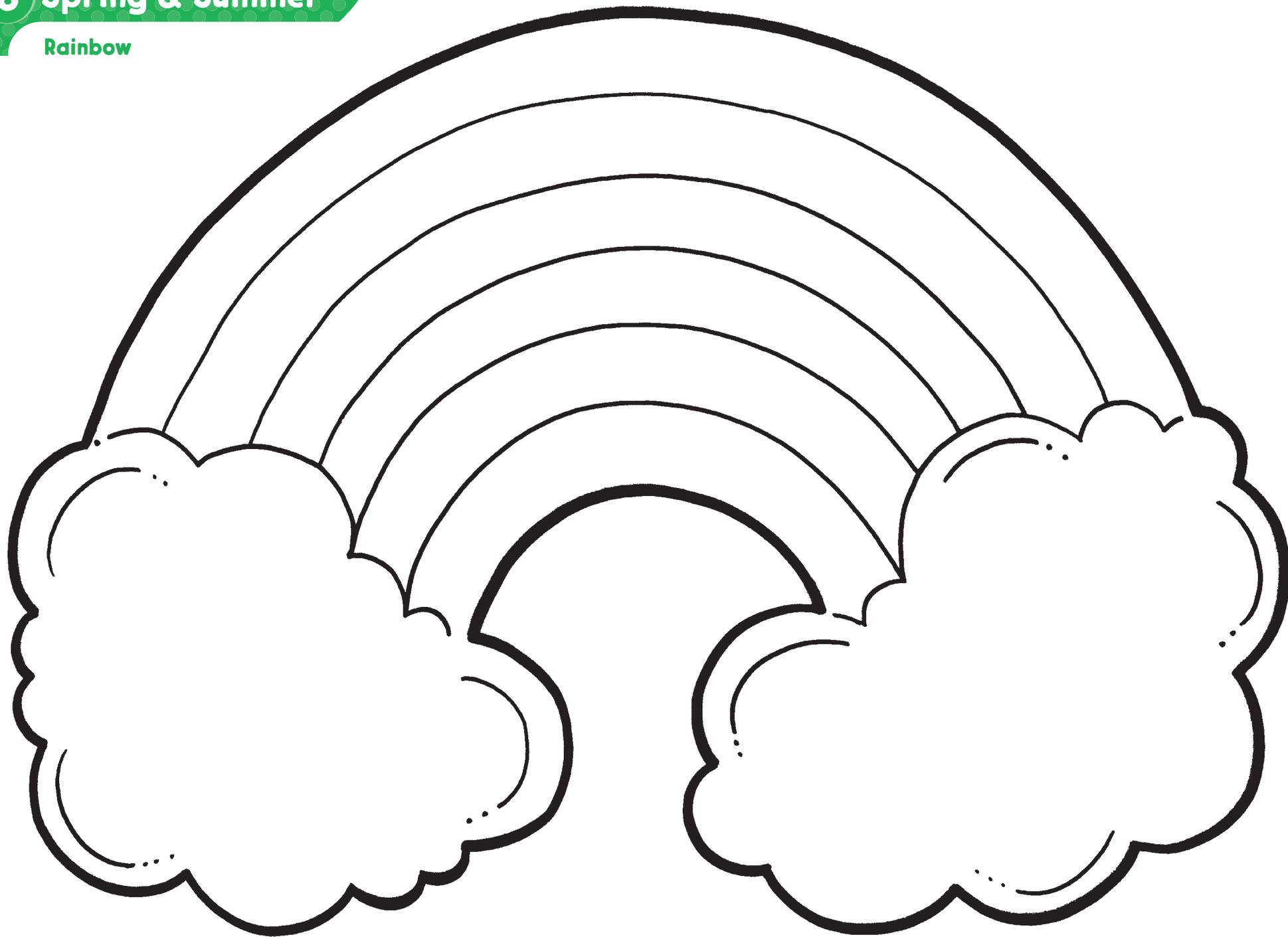


8 Spring & Summer

Rainbow





Indoor Rainbow

Create a rainbow right in the classroom with this experiment.

Fill a large, clear glass jar with water, and secure it in a sunny window. Then place a sheet of white posterboard on the floor beneath the window to catch the light that shines through the glass. Can children see a rainbow on the paper? (If not, adjust the position of the jar or hold it over the paper in direct sunlight until a rainbow appears.) Then hand out copies of the pattern along with the appropriate color crayons. Have children record their observations by filling in the rainbow's stripes with the colors they see, in the order they appear. Use the experiment to explain that rainbows are formed by light shining through water; the water bends the light and separates the colors inside it. Sometimes we see a rainbow after a storm because the sun's light shines through the raindrops in the air.

Standards

- Conducts simple investigations
- Records information collected about the physical world

At the End of the Rainbow

Children write or dictate stories about what they would like to find at the end of a rainbow.

Invite children to create their own twist on the story by imagining that they could reach the end of the rainbow—what would they like to find there? Would it be a pot of their favorite books? How about a new pet puppy? Encourage children to use their imagination as they discuss ideas and plan their stories. Then give each child an 11- by 17-inch sheet of white construction paper along with a copy of the pattern. Let children cut out their rainbows, color, and paste to the paper. Then have them draw the object or creature they'd like to find at the end. Have children write or dictate a short story to go with their picture, telling what they would like to find and why.

Standards

- Uses prewriting strategies to plan written work
- Uses strategies to publish written work, such as incorporating illustrations and sharing finished product

Rainbow Suncatchers

Use the pattern to create colorful suncatchers!

Divide the class into small groups. For each group, tape a copy of the pattern to a table. Then tape a sheet of clear contact paper on top (sticky side up) so that the rainbow picture shows through. Provide children with cut tissue shapes in rainbow colors and invite them to stick them on the contact paper, using the lines on the pattern as a guide to fill in the rainbow shape. (Or have students rip the tissue into small pieces to build fine-motor skills.) Review the colors of the rainbow and the order in which they appear—from outside to inside: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet.

Once children have finished, place another sheet of clear contact paper on top, sticky side down. Press together to seal, remove from the table, and use scissors to cut out the rainbow shape. Punch a hole in the top of each rainbow, string with colorful yarn, and hang in a sunny window. As the light streams through, invite children to name all the colors they see!

Standards

- Experiments with a variety of colors, textures, and shapes in artwork
- Knows names of colors



Book Links

- All the Colors of the Rainbow*** by Allan Fowler (Children's Press, 1998). Learn how water and light create rainbows.
- The Boy Who Swallowed a Rainbow*** by Trevor Romain (Boyd's Mills, 2000). When Lucas accidentally swallows a rainbow, lots of zany adventures await.
- Maisy's Rainbow Dream*** by Lucy Cousins (Candlewick Press, 2003). Maisy the mouse falls asleep and dreams a rainbow of colors.