

SCIENCE EXPERIMENT: HOW TO MAKE A RAINBOW

When King Alonso and his crew come across the magical feast in the enchanted glade, the weather is good-blue skies and sunshine. However, as the Harpy comes down the weather turns quickly-rain and thunder descend! When there is sunshine and rain you will often be able to see a rainbow.

Make your own rainbow-following this simple experiment.

Background/Scientific context

You will need a scientific process called the **capillary action**. This action happens when a liquid moves up through a hollow tube or into a spongy, solid material. It happens when three forces work together: **cohesion**, **adhesion** and **surface tension**.



Water molecules like to stick to each other - this is called **cohesion**. They also like to stick to solids in a process called **adhesion**.

In this experiment, you need to use kitchen roll or thick paper towel. The fibres in kitchen roll have lots of little holes. Water is **absorbed** through the kitchen roll because when the first water molecule **adheres** to it and begins to move upward, it pulls the next water molecule up with it, like a chain.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Kitchen roll/thick paper towel
- Felt-tip pens
- Two small bowls of water
- Paperclip
- Thread

METHOD:

1. Cut the kitchen roll into the shape of a rainbow.
2. At each end, use the felt-tip pens to colour a rainbow about 2cm up from the bottom. Remember the order of the colours: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet. 
3. Attach the paperclip to the top of the rainbow and tie a piece of thread to it. This will allow you to hold your rainbow.
4. Add water to the two bowls.
5. Hold the rainbow with both ends slightly submerged into each bowl of water and watch your rainbow grow. 

ARE THERE ANY OTHER WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A RAINBOW?

SEND YOUR CLASS TEACHER OR US A PHOTO OF YOUR RAINBOW!