

# Make a Rainbow

STEM Activity



# Sparkling Sunshine

Often when we think of light, we think of all the electrical things that make light such as bulbs, torches and street lights.

However, we are surrounded by lots of beautiful natural light that comes from the biggest source in our galaxy – the Sun!

The light from the Sun travels huge distances to reach us here on Earth.

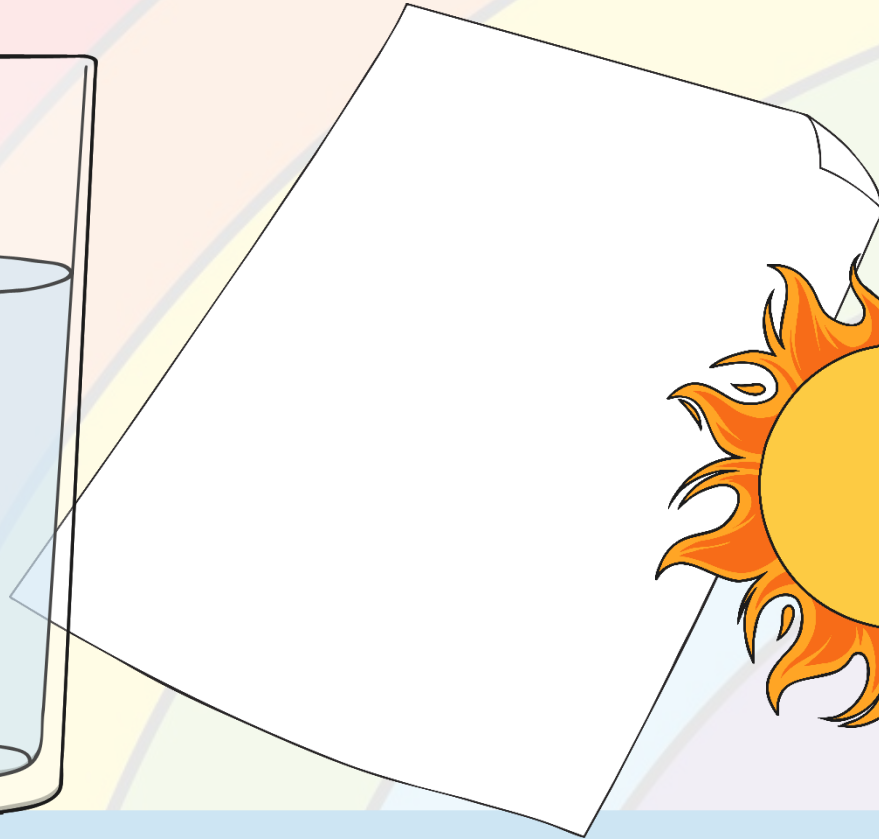
When it finally arrives, it can create some beautiful things.



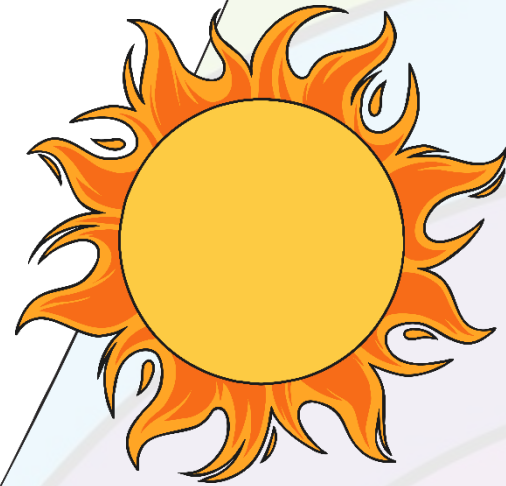
# What You Need



- a glass of water



- a sheet of white paper



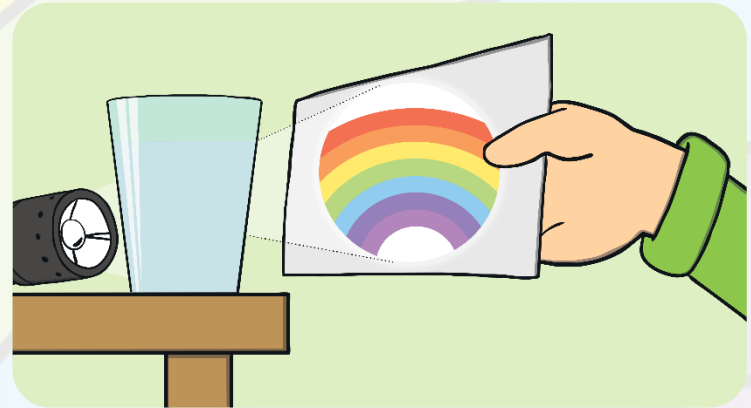
- a sunny day

# What to Do

- 1** Very carefully, place the glass of water on the edge of a table or on a sunny windowsill so that it is sitting at the edge.  
(Make sure it is in the sunlight!)

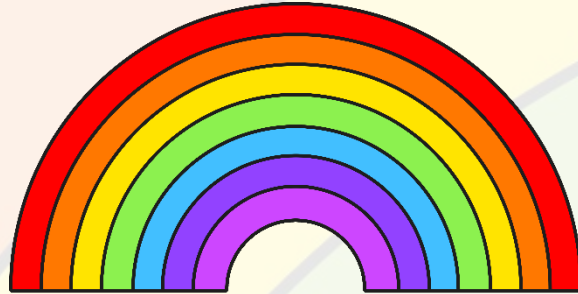
- 2** Move the sheet of paper next to the glass of water.

- 3** Move the paper and the glass until a rainbow appears on the paper.



# Here's What's Happening...

Sunlight is made up of all the colours of the rainbow.



We see light as white because when we see all the colours mixed up together, they look white to us.

Light travels in waves.

When light waves go through the water, the light waves are bent and then they separate. This is called refraction.

When this happens, we see the bent and separated light waves as the different colours of a rainbow.

