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Making a Rainbow

Materials:

Pocket mirror, shallow pan of water, pencil, crayons (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, purple)



Directions:

1. Put the pan of water in a sunlit place opposite a white wall.
2. Hold the mirror at one end of the pan so that the sunlight strikes it.
3. Move the mirror until you see the colours of the rainbow on the wall. Then answer the questions below.

Questions:

1. How many colours can you see in the rainbow?

2. Name the colours.

3. Draw a picture of the rainbow below.



Colours of Rain and Snow

Small bits of reddish soil in the air coloured rain (and snow) in Italy in 1755 and Vietnam in 2002. In 1933, black and brown rain fell in parts of the United States after a dust storm filled the air with swirling dust. Green rain fell on Moscow in 1987, most likely coloured by green pollen in the air.

Materials:

Drawing paper, crayons or textas, watercolours, straws

Directions:

1. Share the above facts with the children.
2. Give each child a piece of drawing paper and a variety of crayons. Have children draw pictures of people or landscapes.
3. Provide a variety of watercolours for children to drip onto their pictures. They can choose colours that match the different colours it has rained (as listed above). Children can use straws to blow the drips of paint to make rain-streaked pictures.
4. Once the pictures are dry, stick them on a bulletin board.

Options:

- Cut raindrop shapes from thick paper and let children paint these. Use clothespins to hang the raindrops from a clothesline stretched across the classroom.
- Let children make coloured snow pictures using coloured cotton balls. There have been recorded instances of pink snow and green snow in the western United States and in Canada.

Fun Fact:

Some common ferns will open up their leaves during rain but coil them closed when it's dry.

