

81. The Prism

Classroom Activity: An experiment demonstrating how a light prism breaks up colour and how a rainbow is formed.

Grade: 1

Strand(s): Understanding Matter and Energy

This task addresses the following overall expectations:

- investigate how different types of energy are used in daily life;
- demonstrate an understanding that energy is something that is needed to make things happen, and that the sun is the principal source of energy for the earth.

and the following specific expectations:

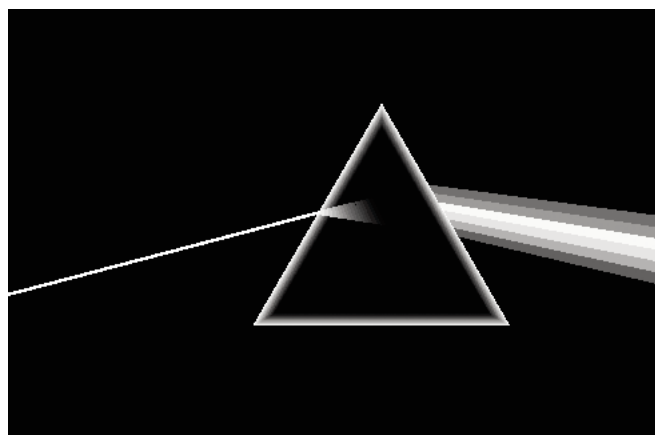
- use scientific inquiry/experimentation skills and knowledge acquired from previous investigations, to explore the effects of light and heat from the sun;
- use appropriate science and technology vocabulary, including explore, investigate, design, energy, and survival, in oral and written communication;
- use a variety of forms (e.g., oral, written, graphic, multimedia) to communicate with different audiences and for a variety of purposes;
- demonstrate an understanding that the sun, as the earth's principal source of energy, warms the air, land, and water; is a source of light for the earth; and makes it possible to grow food.

Assessment Categories:

- Knowledge and Understanding
- Communication
- Application

Type of Activity

Classroom/Science lab



Preparation:

Approximate Time: 30 minutes

Have students work in groups of 4.

Materials:

- Prisms
- Blank white paper
- Flashlights
- Screen projector

Activity Description

- Obtain Materials and have students work in groups of 4. One child holds prism while another holds the flashlight. The others kids are left to see the colours from the white light.
- Discuss with class about natural forms of energy and where we can find light, and how it makes living things (ie. Plants) grow.
- Explain that colours they see in the rainbow come from a natural prism (Water rain-drops).
- Let the kids each have turns with the prism and flashlights, if the flashlights fail, the classroom screen projector is a good alternative as well with the prisms.