

Colors of Sunlight Mini Experiments

Discover the science of sunlight and colors!

Instructions: Discover the science of colors and sunlight with eight mini experiments. Explore at your own pace!

Optional: Print and cut out cards. Fold and glue together to make a double-sided card.

Where materials are needed, they are noted on the card.

<p>Mini Experiment 1</p> <p>Light or Dark?</p> <p>Go in a dark room, then go in a room with a window (during the daytime). Do you see more colors in the dark or in the light?</p>	<p>Explore</p> <p>The light of the Sun shines on the Earth during the daytime. We see colors when it is light.</p> <p>Image: Sam T on Flickr.</p>
<p>Mini Experiment 2</p> <p>Speed of Light!</p> <p>Go for a walk for 8 minutes. Set a timer and see how far you get in the time it takes</p> <p>Materials: Timer or watch.</p>	<p>Explore</p> <p>Sunlight travels faster than anything we know! It takes just over 8 minutes for sunlight to travel from the Sun to the Earth!</p>

Mini Experiment 3

Make Waves!

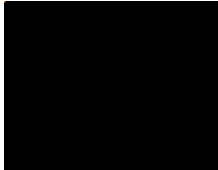
Can you blow waves over a bowl of water with a straw?
We see light waves from the Sun as beautiful colors!

Materials: Water, bowl, straw.

Explore

Sunlight is made of waves. These waves travel from the Sun to the

else do you know that makes waves? The ocean!

<p>Mini Experiment 6</p> <p>Bouncy Colors!</p> <p>Compare the bounce of a playdough ball and a bouncy ball (use two colors if available). Which ball bounces more? Imagine light bouncing off in a similar way.</p> <p>Materials: Playdough, bouncy ball.</p>	<p>Explore</p> <p>Objects on Earth absorb and bounce back different wavelengths of sunlight. The colors we see are the waves that are reflected (bounced back). A leaf looks green to us because it absorbs red light and reflects green light.</p> 
<p>Mini Experiment 7</p> <p>Find Colors!</p> <p>Look around you. Name several colors that you can see right now. What are your favorite colors?</p>	<p>Explore</p> <p>Special cones inside our eyes allow us to see many different colors. People everywhere around the world see colors. Colors might have different names and meanings.</p> <p>Image: Pixnio.com</p>
<p>Mini Experiment 8</p> <p>Ultraviolet Colors!</p> <p>Color a piece of paper with as many bright colors as you can. Imagine the colors you could see if you had ultraviolet vision!</p> <p>Materials: Paper, crayons or markers.</p>	<p>Explore</p> <p>Many animals, including some insects, birds, and fish, can see ultraviolet or infrared colors invisible to human eyes. Objects might look very different with ultraviolet or infrared colors!</p>