

The Whys of Weather The Colors of the Rainbow

Adapted from a Native American Legend

Once upon a time all of the colors started to argue. Green, blue, yellow, orange, red, indigo, and violet fought over who was the most beautiful. Each color wanted to be everyone's favorite.

Green spoke first. "Look around you. See the grass and the trees. I am the color of Earth. Without me, no animal could live. Look at the farms in the countryside. Look at the forests. I am more places on Earth than any of you."

Blue broke in with a joke. "You are only Green with envy." All of the colors laughed. Blue was the friendliest of the colors. He continued, "You may be on land, but think of me! I am the color of the ocean and the sky. I am the water people drink and the air they breathe. I am the rain that makes trees and flowers grow. I bring kindness and serenity."

Yellow danced around and said, "Yes! You may be the color of the sky, but the sky would never be blue without me! I splash the world with puddles of sunlight, not rain! I bring happiness. Without me, Green, your grass would never grow. I am sunflowers, sunshine, and smiles!"

Orange came next. In a very serious voice, Orange said, "Yellow, you play too much. I am the most beautiful. Who has never paused to see a beautiful sunset? I bring happiness at the end of the day. I am rare, but precious, like a great gem."

Then Red interrupted with a yell, "Listen to me! I am strength! I am power in battle. I am the color of blood that pumps in the heart and brings life. I am fire and passion. Who could ever fall in love without red? Who could ever smell the beautiful rose?"

Purple spoke and everyone listened. Purple was very respected among the colors. "Colors, I am the color of royalty. My depth is great. I combine the power of Red with the kindness of Blue. Through the ages, I have been the color of wisdom."

Finally, the timid voice of Indigo joined the conversation. Indigo was quiet, but determined. "I, too, am important. I am the color that fills the sky before blackness. I am the color in the depths of the sea. The deepest thoughts are shaded Indigo. I bring philosophy."

The colors kept quarreling. They all started speaking at once. Rain heard the noise and became angry. He made lightning crash from the sky. All the colors huddled together in fear. Rain scolded the colors: "What are you fighting about? You are all special. You are all different. None of you is the best. Without all of the colors, the world would be sad."

Rain told the colors to hold hands as a sign that they were friends again. But Rain would not let the colors forget his lesson. From then on, after big storms, Rain made the colors join hands in the sky. In the rainbow, all the colors are together as a symbol of peace and hope.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. What happened first?

- a. The colors became afraid.
- b. Rain lectured the colors.
- c. The colors joined hands.
- d. Rain made a crash of lightning.

2. In the legend, what is the cause of rainbows?

- a. Rain teaching the colors a lesson
- b. Lightning crashing from the sky
- c. Colors unable to agree on which is most beautiful
- d. Blue is the color of the rain, sea, and sky

3. What does Green mean when he says, “No animal could live without me”?

- a. Green is the favorite color of animals.
- b. Animals need farms to live.
- c. Animals need green plants to eat.
- d. Animals can only see green.

4. To be “Green with envy” means

- a. to be green
- b. to want money
- c. to be jealous
- d. to grow

5. This passage is mostly about

- a. Native American traditions
- b. why there are rainbows
- c. why indigo is the most important color
- d. different legends about rainbows

6. Why does Orange think that he is the most beautiful?

7. In the legend, why does Rain make lightning crash from the sky?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Rain made all of the colors form a rainbow _____ they were arguing.

- a. also
- b. without
- c. while
- d. because

9. Read the following sentence.

To some Native Americans, a rainbow is a symbol of peace and hope.

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

- 1. What is the subject of the sentence? a rainbow
- 2. A rainbow is what? _____
- 3. To whom? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** quarrel: argument or fight.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 380

Featured Text Structure: Cause/Effect – the writer presents the reason an event happened and its results

Passage Summary: This Native American legend explains why rainbows exist. In the legend, the colors are fighting over which color is the most beautiful until Rain tells them that they are all equal and orders them to come together into a rainbow.

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5. This passage is mostly about
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 - c. why indigo is the most important color
 - d. different legends about rainbows

6. Why does Orange think that he is the most beautiful?

Suggested answer: Orange thinks that he is the most beautiful because he is rare, precious, and brings happiness at the end of the day.

7. In the legend, why does Rain make lightning crash from the sky?

Suggested answer: Rain is angry at the colors and wants to stop their fighting and teach them a lesson. The lightning is meant to scare the colors and get their attention.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Rain made all of the colors form a rainbow _____ they were arguing.

- a. also
- b. without
- c. while
- d. because**

9. Read the following sentence.

To some Native Americans, a rainbow is a symbol of peace and hope.

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

1. What is the subject of the sentence? a rainbow
2. A rainbow is what? **a symbol of peace and hope**
3. To whom? **some Native Americans**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** quarrel: argument or fight.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.