

15 - Rainbow

On this episode of Who Smarted? a friendly leprechaun enlists the help of his new digital assistant O'Siri to find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Spoiler alert: There is no pot of gold, because there is no end of the rainbow!

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Some wild facts about rainbows:

You and your kid probably think rainbows are simply arches, like upside down smiles. So did we! Until we made this episode, and learned that rainbows are actually full circles, and the only reason they look like arches is because the earth blocks the bottom half. But from the sky, you can see the full circle of colors!

Have you ever noticed, in order to see a rainbow, you have to hold your head at just the right angle? Well, it turns out that perfect rainbow viewing angle is 42 degrees!

And if your kid wants to know what's so special about 42 degrees (because we sure did!):

First, remember that a rainbow is neither a physical object, nor is it actually in one location. It's an illusion. Because the light exits the water droplet at an angle of 42 degrees, you always see a rainbow whenever you're standing 42 degrees below where the sunlight is coming from. Or, if you drew a line from your head to the rainbow, then back to the sun, that angle will always be 42 degrees. We know... it's complicated. Luckily you can see rainbows without needing to be a human protractor!

Keep riding the rainbow after the episode:

Have your kid look into the connection between mythical leprechauns and rainbows. Perhaps they can write a story or draw a comic about Larry the Leprechaun and his search for the pot o' gold at the end of the rainbow!

Turns out there are over one MILLION colors in the rainbow. Get out those crayons or paint and design the ultimate rainbow. Whether or not you include leprechauns, unicorns, pots of gold, and kids sliding down the rainbow is UP TO YOU!

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¹ This activity guide is for the Who Smarted? podcast www.WhoSmarted.com