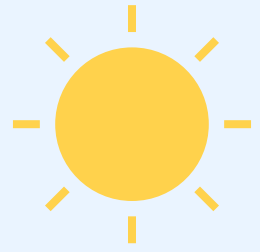


Why Is the Sky Blue?

A Curious Mind Activity Sheet • Ages 5-10



Read the story with a grown-up, then become a Sky Scientist and complete the activities below!

1. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: *rainbow • scatters • blue • sunset • air*

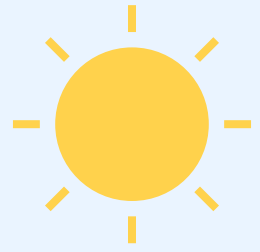
1. Sunlight looks white, but it is really made of all the colors of the _____.
2. When sunlight hits tiny bits of _____, it bounces in every direction.
3. This bouncing is called scattering, and _____ light scatters the most.
4. The sky looks blue because blue light _____ all over the sky.
5. At _____, the sky turns orange and pink instead of blue.

2. True or False?

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| ■ Sunlight is actually just one plain color. | TRUE | FALSE |
| ■ Red light scatters more than blue light. | TRUE | FALSE |
| ■ The sky is blue because it reflects the ocean. | TRUE | FALSE |
| ■ Sunsets look orange and pink because blue light scatters away. | TRUE | FALSE |

Sky Scientist Activities

Keep exploring, Curious Mind!



3. Color the Rainbow

Sunlight hides all these colors inside it! Color each stripe of the rainbow.

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4. Draw It!

Draw what the sky looks like at sunset. Don't forget the orange, pink, and red colors!

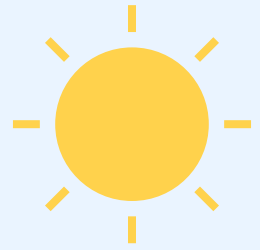
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5. Think and Discuss

If our eyes could only see red light instead of being extra sensitive to blue, what color do you think the sky might look like? Talk about your idea with a grown-up!

Answer Key

For Grown-Ups — Curio Approved!



1. Fill in the Blanks

1. rainbow
2. air
3. blue
4. scatters
5. sunset

2. True or False?

Sunlight is actually just one plain color. → FALSE

Red light scatters more than blue light. → FALSE

The sky is blue because it reflects the ocean. → FALSE

Sunsets look orange and pink because blue light scatters away. → TRUE

5. Think and Discuss

Sample answer: Great thinkers, blue light scatters the most because of its short, bouncy waves — that's a fact about the light itself, not about our eyes. But if our eyes could only detect red light, we wouldn't be able to see most of that scattered light, since red barely scatters at all. The sky would likely look much darker and dimmer to us — maybe even close to black, similar to how the sky looks on the moon, where there's very little air to scatter light at all!

There's still room for creative thinking here — encourage your child's own reasoning and ideas before sharing the sample answer above. Curiosity matters more than getting it 'right.'

Source: NASA StarChild — “Why is space black?” confirms the Moon has no atmosphere to scatter light, which is why its sky stays black even in daylight.

starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/questions/question52.html