

Dear Jax,  
Why is the color black hot?  
Melanie Stevenson  
Dearborn, Michigan

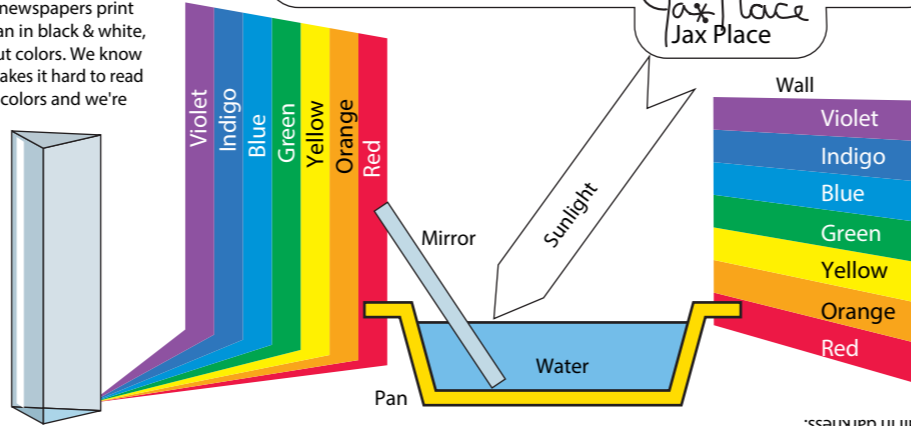
Some newspapers print You Can in black & white, without colors. We know that makes it hard to read about colors and we're sorry.

### experiment #1

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Prism – sunshine  
Optional: shallow pan – mirror – water

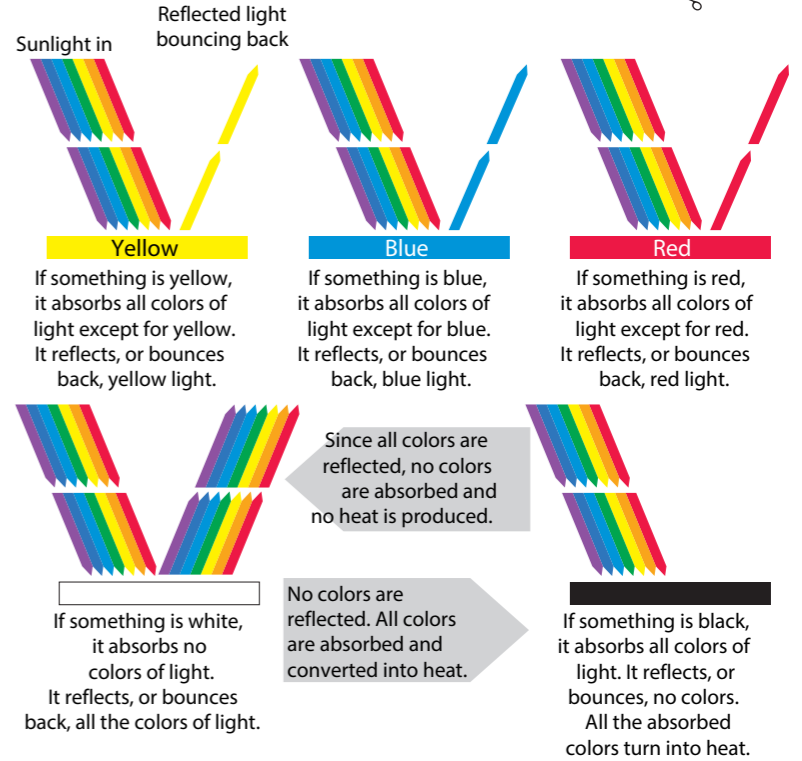
**WHAT TO DO:** Use either of the drawings as a guide and make your own rainbow. If you use the water method, be sure to let the water get very still and to tilt the mirror slowly until you see colors.

**WHAT IS GOING ON:** What looks like white light is really all colors of light mixed together. We see colors because colored light bounces off things. When we see something, we do not see the thing. We see light bouncing off the thing!



Dear Melanie,  
Back in olden times in the 1960s, earthtones were hot. Now the hot colors are black, green and purple. Black is hot because it can make you look artistic and all groovy, especially black turtle-necks. But I think you might be asking about another kind of hot – the temperature kind of hot. Black things get hotter in sunlight because all colors turn into heat. Black gets hotter because it absorbs the most colors.

*Jax Place*  
Jax Place



P.S.: from Beakman: If no light is bouncing off something, then there isn't any color. That means there is no color at all in darkness.