



Dear Jax,  
It seems most rainbows come late in the day. Is this true?  
Connie Carey  
Santa Cruz, California

Beakman or Jax  
1130 Walnut Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
Questions, name & address

Dear Connie,  
Rainbows are very personal. Their light has to be aimed directly at you. If it isn't, you can't see one.  
When the sun is low in the sky, colors bounce out of a raindrop toward the ground. When the sun is high, like at noon, the light bounces back up into the sky, where hardly anyone is around to see it.

Different colors of light bend more or less when they pass through water, glass or other clear stuff. When white light shines through a raindrop, the different colors bend and bounce in their own special ways and the

colors separate out. We call the separated colors a spectrum. The different colors are aimed out in different directions. So you see only a part of the spectrum from each and every drop. When the sun is low in

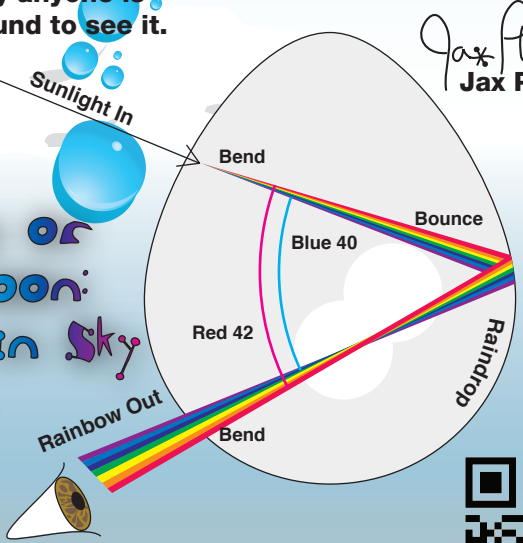
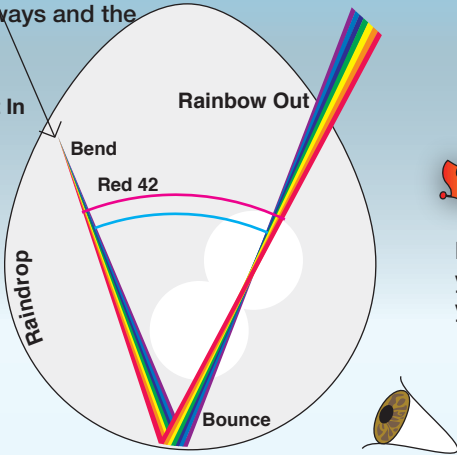
Morning or Afternoon:  
Sun Low in Sky

the sky, the bounce-back is aimed where most of us are – toward the ground.

Mid-Day:  
Sun High in Sky

Lots of raindrops together, pointing at your eyes means the rainbow you see is yours alone.

With the sun high, the light leaving raindrops is aimed almost straight up into the sky. You'd need to be above those raindrops to see the colors.



Jax Place  
Jax Place

