

ACTIVITY!

Make a Rainbow Myth Window hanging

In the Bible, God creates the rainbow as a symbol of his promise never to send another flood to destroy mankind. For the ancient Greeks, the rainbow was the goddess Iris. She carried messages from Earth to the heavens. The **Norse** believed that a rainbow bridge connected Middle Earth with Asgard, the home of the gods. In Japan, the rainbow was considered the Floating Bridge of Heaven. In Australia, the **Aborigines** tell stories about the Rainbow Serpent who creates the rivers and lakes as she moves across the land. And in Africa, Aido-Hwedo is the Rainbow Snake who surrounds the earth, munching on his own tail.

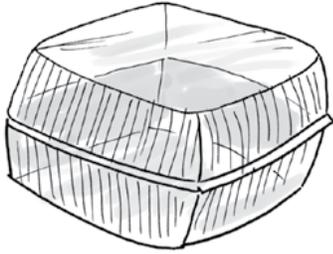
Choose one of these rainbow myths and design your own see-through window hanging based on it. Or come up with your own story to explain what a rainbow is or why it occurs. When you draw with your markers on the clear polystyrene plastic and then heat it, your design will shrink to one-third of its original size and become about nine times thicker.

Supplies

- permanent markers
- recycled polystyrene clear plastic food container (#6 recycle code ONLY!)
- scissors
- hole puncher
- oven or toaster oven (not a microwave oven)
- metal baking pan
- aluminum foil
- string

1 With the markers, draw a picture of a rainbow and any other flood myth elements you like on the clear #6 plastic. Be sure to leave space at the top of your design for a hole so that you can hang it from a string.

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2 Cut out your design. At the top, punch or cut out a hole about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the edge.

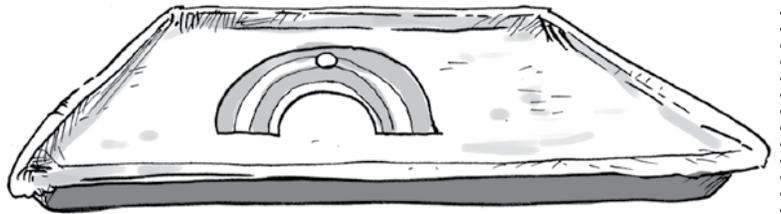


3 With an adult's help, heat the oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit (163 degrees Celsius). Line the baking pan with aluminum foil.

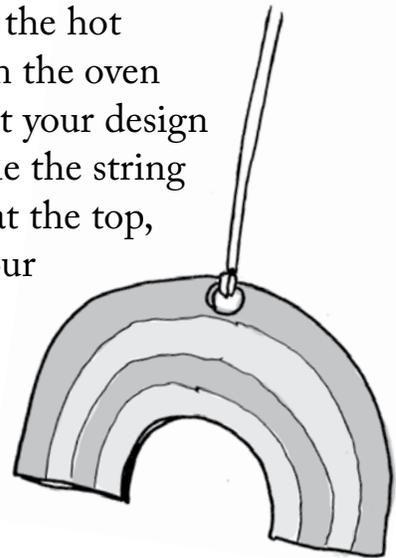


4 Place your design on the foil. Put the pan in the oven.

5 Heat your design for about 2 minutes. It's done after it curls up and flattens out again.



6 Remove the hot pan from the oven carefully. Let your design cool. Then tie the string to the hole at the top, and hang your rainbow where sunlight can hit it.



Words to Know

Norse: people from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

Aborigine: original people living in Australia.