



Visual Arts: Rainbow Paper

Materials

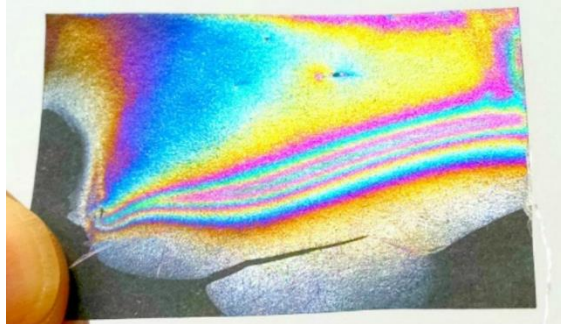
- A bowl filled with water
- Clear Nail Polish
- Rectangles of black construction paper or black card stock (about 3-5 inches long on the sides)
- Paper towels

Special Notes

- The rainbow paper experiment is simple, but it does take some patience to get it just right.
- Regarding nail polish fumes. Conduct this experiment in a ventilated area with good air circulation. If you have a child that is especially sensitive to strong smells it may be best to do this experiment outside or make special adjustments for the child.

Procedure

- To do this activity successfully it needs to be done quickly.
- Drip one little drop of nail polish into the bowl of water. The nail polish dries quickly on the surface of the water, which creates a film that won't stick to the paper.
- Dip the paper into the water within 10-15 seconds after the drop of nail polish goes in. If the nail polish does create a dry film on top, simply scoop it off and try again more quickly!
- Set the pieces of rainbow paper onto paper towels to dry.



- Watch how different each piece of paper turns out.
- Once the paper is dry (this only takes a few minutes) tilt the paper in different directions to see the rainbow patterns appear. Hold it next to a sunny window for best results!

Alternately

- Place the paper under the water
- Drip one drop of clear nail polish on top of it. The nail polish disperses across the surface of the water within a couple of seconds. Once the nail polish spreads out, it's safe to pull the paper out of the water, coating it with a thin film of clear nail polish.
- Experiment to see which technique works best for you!

