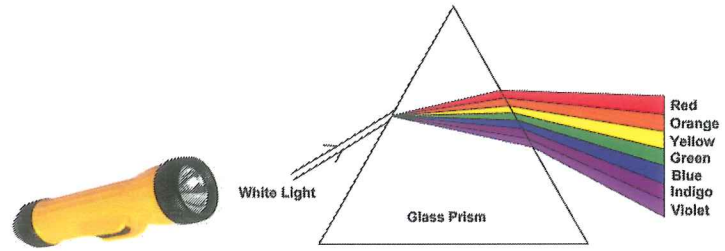


# Prism Observations

What happens when light hits a prism?

## Materials:

Prism  
Flashlight  
Prism Observation papers  
Clear glass with water



**Directions:** This is an exploration on what happens when light hits a prism. First place a glass of water at each table. Pose the question, "What happens when light hits a prism?" Solicit responses from students and have them write down their hypothesis. Give each student a flashlight and prism. Turn the lights off and let the exploration begin. You will probably have to assist students in getting the right angle so that they can see how the light is refracted by the prism. Do they see the rainbow? Explain to students that the light is being bent or **refracted**. Light is made up of all colors. When the prism bends the light, then we can see the colors that make up light! The prism is refracting the light. Have students write down and draw their observations. Have students write their conclusions.

Next have students place a pencil in the glass of water. What do they see??? What happened to the pencil? Put your finger in the water. What happened?? The water refracted the light, that is why it looks like the pencil was cut in half. Ask students if they can give a definition for the word, **refraction**.

We can learn a lot about the world around us by observing things. By asking questions, trying new things and observing what happens, we can discover and learn new things! This is science!! It all starts with an inquiry!

Ask a **Question**

Form a **Hypothesis**

Record **Observations**

Make a **Conclusion**

