

Surf Soup TV & the Banana Unicorns: Chasing Rainbows
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Series, Book 12, Volume 2

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Book Description for Teachers / Guide

Surf Soup TV & the Banana Unicorns: Chasing Rainbows is a playful, magical adventure that invites kids to chase imagination – and rainbows! Join Koa, Banini the Banana Unicorn, Kiss the rainbow-trailing surfboard, Holo Holo the flying surf van, and Cokie the Coconut as they explore Surf Soup Island, try to capture rainbows in jars, and discover a heartwarming lesson: some things are meant to be experienced and shared, not owned.

This whimsical story encourages creativity, curiosity, and collaboration while weaving in STEM concepts about light, color, and rainbows. Perfect for classrooms, homeschool, and makerspace activities for ages 6-12.

What Students Learn from the Book

Science of Rainbows

How light and water droplets create rainbows (refraction, bending of light)

Observing and experimenting with rainbow formation using prisms, water sprays, or glasses

Engineering & Problem-Solving

Designing ways to “catch” or recreate rainbows with creative solutions

Learning about trial, error, and iteration through hands-on activities

Art & Creativity

Drawing, coloring, or crafting rainbows

Connecting scientific observation with creative expression

Math Concepts

Sequencing colors (ROY G BIV)

Measuring arcs and angles in experiments
Social-Emotional Lessons
Sharing and valuing experiences over ownership
Working together and learning from friends

Note to Teachers / Guide Introduction

Dear Educators,

Chasing Rainbows is more than just a story – it's a launching point for curiosity, creativity, and hands-on learning. This guide is designed to help students connect the magic of the book to real-world science, art, and math activities while fostering teamwork and reflection.

The activities encourage children to observe, experiment, create, and reflect, making connections between the story and their own experiences. You'll find prompts for discussion, interactive experiments, and ideas for integrating STEM, art, and SEL concepts.

Teachers can use this guide to:

Spark classroom discussions about science, color, and light

Incorporate fun, safe, and low-prep hands-on experiments

Foster creativity and self-expression

Encourage teamwork and social-emotional learning

Inspire students to share their own “rainbows” in art, writing, or experiments

Let your students explore the joy of chasing rainbows – and discovering that the most magical lessons are the ones they experience for themselves.



STEAM Activities & Projects



Science (Understanding Rainbows & Light)

Rainbow Refraction Activities

Students explore how rainbows form using prisms, water glasses, flashlights, or mist sprays. They observe how light bends (refraction) and separates into colors, then record findings.

Rainbow in a Jar / Walking Water (Capillary Action)

Kids place colored water in cups with paper towels to see colors “walk” and merge – introducing capillary action and color theory.

Create Your Own Rainbow

Use spray bottles and sunlight outdoors to make real rainbows (great visual lesson in physics and weather).



Technology & Engineering (Design Challenges)

Rainbow Bridge Engineering Challenge

Students design and build a rainbow-colored bridge using craft sticks, paper, or recycled materials. They test for strength and discuss how structure and form affect stability.

Light Experiment Exploration

Students build simple spectrosopes (e.g., with CDs) to observe spectrum patterns, or use lenses to test light bending and angles.



Art (Colors, Patterns, Expression)

Color Mixing & Art Projects

Experiments like Magic Milk show surface tension and color interactions. Kids create rainbow art and patterns, connect science with artistic expression.

Rainbow Slime / Sensory Projects

Making glitter or layered rainbow slime reinforces science concepts like polymer behavior while letting students craft and explain texture and color effects.



Math (Patterns, Measurement, Data)

Rainbow Color Sequencing & Patterns

Using ROY G BIV as a basis, students order, measure, and graph rainbow segments – great for pattern recognition and sequencing skills.

Density Tower Experiment

Using liquids of different densities (e.g., honey, oil, water) to create a rainbow effect in a jar, then discuss measurement and density.



How These Activities Connect to Chasing Rainbows

Book theme → real science: The story's focus on rainbows becomes a launching pad for experiments with light, color, and optics (light refraction and capillary action).

Creative expression: Drawing or constructing rainbows ties back to the interactive final page (collect, draw, paste your rainbow) and invites students to experiment with materials and colors.

Engineering thinking: The Rainbow Bridge and design challenges introduce planning, testing, and improvement – key STEAM skills.

Data and reflection: Teachers can collect observations, compare rainbow experiments, and integrate simple math like ordering colors or measuring light angles.



Teacher Guide Structure (Suggested Sections)

Introduction & Learning Goals

Objectives: Light refraction, color science, creative expression, problem solving.

Activity 1: Rainbow Science Experiments

Rainbow in a glass, walking water, outdoor spray rainbow (science + observation).

Activity 2: Engineering Rainbow Designs

Build a rainbow bridge or structure with materials – record findings.

Activity 3: Art Meets Science

Create rainbow art, slime, or milk surface tension experiment.

Activity 4: Math & Patterns

Sequence ROY G BIV, measure arcs, graph observations.

Reflection & Group Discussion

What did you learn about light and color? How do rainbows form? What was most surprising?

Assessment & Extensions

Worksheets: observation logs, vocabulary (refraction, capillary action, spectrum), creative writing prompts tied to Chasing Rainbows.