STEM on the Go  
June 2022

Let’s look at light! Refraction is the bending of light. Light bends whenever it travels from one transparent material to another because it is changing speed!

Activity #1: Bendable Pencil!

Materials: Glass Jar (at least 6 in. tall), pencil, and clear(ish) liquids like water, baby oil, or corn oil

1. Fill your mason jar half way with water.
2. Put your pencil into the jar. What happens to the pencil? Is it still straight? Does it look bent? Maybe even like it split in two?
3. Try with a clear syrup or oil, does the outcome change?

Activity #2  
Reverse a Rainbow!

Materials: Washable markers, tall glass jar filled with water, and plain white paper.

Tip: The smoother the jar, the better the experiment will work.

1. Draw a rainbow on your blank piece of paper, keeping your lines close together. Make it big so that the experiment is more dramatic.
2. Put your piece of paper behind the jar.
3. Slide the paper behind the jar. The image should flip halfway through and show the image in reverse!
4. If it doesn’t flip, continue to play with the angle until it flips for you.

Try writing a word and see what it does.