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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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MOVING RAINBOWS

Nothing could better express the fact that a rainbow isn't anywhere than the old popular saying that you'll find a pot of gold at its base. It is hard to realize that the bow we see so distinctly arching over some feature of the landscape and descending so definitely just in front of a prominent object is nowhere. The little boy who tries to get under the arch to look up at it must always be as disappointed as the gold seeker.

The bow is simply diverted sunlight and, therefore, no more at any particular place than the sunshine we can see by turning around. This is evident when one views a rainbow from a traveling automobile and sees it move along with the machine. Really you are seeing a new rainbow every moment. You can look at the rainbow and enjoy it longer, for it cannot be left behind, so long as there are raindrops for the sun to shine upon.

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