

For Release
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Rainbows! These thrill us by their beauty, and many wonder how they are formed. As early as 1311 a good explanation was given. This was developed by Archbishop Antonius de Dominis in 1611 and later by Descartes. To study the rainbow both used globes filled with water to represent raindrops. Placed in the sunlight, these gave the primary and secondary bows. They found that for the primary bow light entered the drops and the rays were refracted (or bent) upon entering, they were reflected from the back of the drop to the observer and refracted upon leaving the drop. Before Newton it was thought that refraction (or bending) actually produced the colors, but he explained that sunlight was composed of all the colors, and that refraction separated them, making them visible.