Name: _____ Date: _____

# Why Is the Sky Blue?

Reading level 7 (3rd grade) · 218 words

Look up, but not at the sun! The sky is blue. Why is it blue, and not green or pink?

Sunlight looks white. But it is really every color of the rainbow. The colors are mixed together.

After rain, you might see a rainbow. Hold on to that: it shows the colors sunlight hides. A rainbow is sunlight spread into its colors.

Light travels in waves, like ripples on a pond. Blue ripples are close together. Red ripples are far apart.

Sunlight flies into the air around Earth. Air is full of tiny bits too small to see. They bounce the light in every direction.

Blue waves are short, so they bounce the most. Red waves are long, so they slip through.

So blue light comes from all over the sky. Look anywhere, and it finds your eyes. The whole sky looks blue.

Violet light bounces a lot, too. But our eyes see violet less well than blue.

At sunset, the sun is low. Its light crosses a lot of air to reach you.

On that long trip, most blue bounces away. The reds and yellows come straight to you.

So a sunset glows red and yellow. The blue did not vanish. It bounced away.

Next time the sun sets, watch the sky. Where did the blue go?

## Questions

**1. What is sunlight really made of?**

A. Only blue
B. All the rainbow colors
C. Only white

**2. Which light bounces the most in the air?**

A. Red
B. Green
C. Blue

**3. Why does a sunset look red?**

A. The sea turns red
B. The blue has bounced away
C. The sun gets cold

**4. What does the air do to sunlight?**

A. Bounces it around
B. Hides it
C. Freezes it

**5. What makes the sky blue?**

A. The sea
B. The clouds
C. The air

**6. Why is the sky not violet?**

A. Violet is gone
B. Our eyes see blue better
C. Violet is too heavy

## Words to know

bounce: spring back
waves: light's ripples
rainbow: bent-light colors
violet: purple color
sunset: end of day

# Answer key: Why Is the Sky Blue?

1. B. All the rainbow colors
2. C. Blue
3. B. The blue has bounced away
4. A. Bounces it around
5. C. The air
6. B. Our eyes see blue better