

05.03 Coming out of the Ark; Giving Thanks; Rainbow (Genesis 8–9:19)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of the pictures.
- See “Activities” and “Handwork” below for additional useful items.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: (none for this lesson)

Scripture: (ESV)

8:1 But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. 2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, 3 and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, 4 and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. 5 And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

6 At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made 7 and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. 8 Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. 9 But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. 10 He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. 11 And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. 12 Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore.

13 In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. 14 In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. 15 Then God said to Noah, 16 “Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” 18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. 19 Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark.

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. 22 While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. 2 The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. 5 And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. 6 “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. 7 And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.”

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast

of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12 And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17 God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth

18 The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) 19 These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed.

Introduction/Review:

Here is a recap of the flood:

1. The wickedness of man was so great that God said He would destroy all men and beasts.
2. Noah received grace from God. When he was told by God to build an ark (boat/barge) out of a special wood and to put tar inside and outside, he did it. The ark was at least 450 feet long (almost 2 city blocks), 75 feet wide (the length of a tennis court), and 45 feet tall that included three decks (as tall as a three-story building). It had one window and one door.
3. Noah built the ark for 120 years, all the time being a “preacher of righteousness,”
4. Two of each kind of animal (a male and a female) and seven of the clean animals and birds came into the ark. Noah, his wife, his three sons (Shem, Ham, Japheth), and their wives came into the ark. God shut the door.
5. After a week (Noah’s 600th year, 2nd month, 17th day) the rain began to fall, fountains of the deep spouted like geysers, wells of water broke out. Rain fell for forty days; the flood covered the highest mountain by at least 22.5 feet. All animals and people drowned except Noah and those in the ark. The water prevailed 150 days and then decreased another 150 days as God caused a wind to blow over the earth.
6. In the seventh month the ark rested on Mount Ararat in modern-day Turkey.
7. In the tenth month the tops of the mountains were seen.
8. After forty days (11th month, 10th day) Noah sent out a raven and a dove; the raven did not return.
9. After seven more days (11th month, 17th day) Noah sent out the dove; it returned with an olive branch.
10. Again, after seven more days (11th month, 24th day) Noah sent out the dove; it didn’t return.

Story:

In Noah’s 601st year, 2nd month, 27th day, the earth was dry. The flood had lasted one year and ten days. (Noah was in the ark an additional seven days.)

Leave the ark

Now God told Noah to leave the ark. Can you imagine his excitement? Animals sometimes seem to anticipate a change; maybe they, too, were restless. When Noah opened the door, they took off—birds flying, horses galloping, elephants trudging, insects scurrying, and you name it. [Take a minute or so to have students how the animals might have moved as they found a new home.]

Sacrifice

“Not so fast, you clean animals! Wait a minute! We need to keep you with us. But first we must sacrifice one of each clean animal to our great God who preserved us from the flood that destroyed the earth and all its inhabitants.” Noah and his sons set up an altar to God and in thanksgiving and worship offered this sacrifice to God.

Listen to the covenant

God accepted this offering to Him. He gave Noah commandments and promises. [Use the chart found at the end of this lesson as a visual aid to teaching the following. Also, students might read each item directly from Genesis 8 and 9.]

1. “Be fruitful and multiply,” God said (8:17; 9:1). What did that mean? [Noah’s sons and wives should have lots of children.] Why? [Because the earth needed to be replenished with people.]
2. “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done” (8:21). What does this mean? [God would never again destroy all living creatures as He had done.]
3. “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease” (8:22). This is the positive side of the negative “I will never—.” Instead, of destruction, what will God do? [Have the normal course of seasons and farming continue as long as the earth remains.] The phrase, “while the earth remains,” portends a future time when earth will not remain. Listen to 2 Peter 3:6 and 7: “The world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.” At the end of the world when Jesus comes, the world will be destroyed before He brings His new heavens and new earth.
4. “The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered” (9:2). This means that man is in charge of the animals.
5. “Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood” (9:3, 4). Notice the phrase, “as I gave you the green plants.” Before the flood, the diet of man was vegetarian. Now, after the flood, God allows for humans to eat meat. However, at that time God specified that the meat had to be drained of its blood. That restriction was lifted in the New Testament in the book of Acts.
6. “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image” (9:5, 6). This means that if someone murders someone, the murderer should also be slain. This is called *capital punishment*.
7. “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you. This is my covenant that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth” (9:9–11). God repeats His promise never again to destroy the earth with a worldwide flood.
8. “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh” (9:12–17). What bow is God talking about? [The rainbow.] What do you think we should consider every time we see the rainbow in the sky? [That God promised never to destroy the earth with a worldwide flood and that God keeps His promises.]

One last thing is to tell you that just as all of us came from a common father, Adam, so, too, we come from another common father, Noah. In addition, our ancestor is one of Noah’s sons—Shem, Ham, or Japheth. We will learn more about that in our next lesson.

Lessons from this lesson:

- As God kept His promise to send a worldwide flood in Noah's day, even so He will destroy the world in the last day at the end of the world. We must be ready—trust Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
- Be thankful for the many blessings God gives each day. Pray to express gratitude for specific things.

Activities:

- Play dough: use animal cookie cutters or form animals; rainbow
- Review the songs found in previous lessons and sing the ones found below, especially the “Rainbow Song,” which teaches the order of rainbow colors from top to bottom. See also the visual for this song below.
- Snacks: animal crackers or animal cut-out sugar cookies
- Use puppet script found below for “Willa Whale,” who was not destroyed by the flood.
- Sing “Noah Built the Ark So High” (Tune: “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)

Noah built the ark so high, ark so high, ark so high,
Noah built the ark so high, just as God had said.

He gathered all the animals in, animals in, animals in,
He gathered all the animals in, to save them from the flood.

Then God sent the rain one day, rain one day, rain one day,
Then God sent the rain one day, covered all the land.

It rained for forty days and night, days and night, days and night,
It rained for forty days and night, covered all the world.

A dove brought back an olive branch, an olive branch, an olive branch,
A dove brought back an olive branch, to show the land was dry.

God put a rainbow in the sky, in the sky, in the sky,
God put a rainbow in the sky, to be a sign for man.

- Review questions: (Game: Divide class into two teams. Copy, back with paper towel or flannel the two rainbows found below. If a team answers a question correctly, it places rainbow colors on the flannelgraph board in order from top to bottom. To play this game without a flannelgraph board, have students use crayons or markers on paper to show the rainbow colors.)
 1. While Noah built the ark, what else did he do? [Preached; was called a preacher of righteousness]
 2. How long did it rain? [40 days]
 3. About how long did Noah, his family, and the animals stay in the ark? [About a year; exactly one year, and seventeen days]
 4. What did Noah do when he left the ark? [Offered a sacrifice to God]
 5. What was God's main promise after the flood? [He would never again destroy the earth and all flesh with a worldwide flood.]
 6. Does this mean He will never destroy the earth again at all? Explain your answer. [No. He will destroy it again at the end of time with fire.]
 7. What sign did God give as a symbol of His promise? [The rainbow]
 8. How did eating restrictions change after the flood? [Instead of eating just plants, people could now eat meat without the blood.]
 9. What is the new rule after flood about murderers? [If someone murders someone else, the murderer

should be slain.]

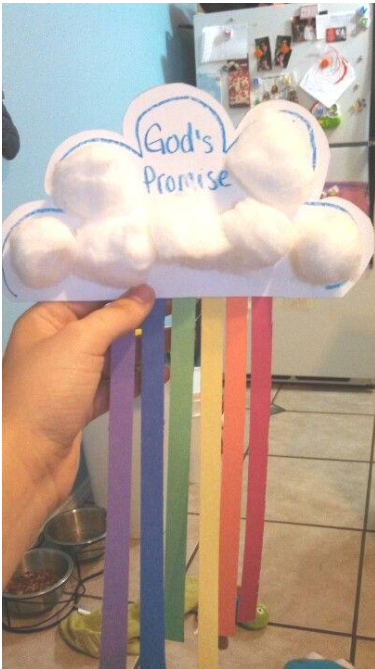
- Put one teaspoon of water in a saucer. Let students blow over it several times. Put the water of the saucers back into the teaspoon. Observe how wind caused the water to evaporate.
- Younger students might pretend to be animals (rabbits, elephants, giraffes, frogs, birds, turtles, bugs, dinosaurs, *etc.*) coming out of the ark.

Handwork:

- Make a cloud with strips of rainbow colors coming down out of it. (See photo below.) I would put the colors—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple—from left to right.
- An alternative idea is to have students paint their own rainbows with watercolors. Monitor to see that the colors are painted in the correct order.

Memory Verse[s]: Psalm 47:7: “God is the king of all the earth.”

Or, Genesis 9:11 (NIV)—“I establish my covenant with you. Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood.” (See visual for this verse below.)



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/322429654548369923/>

Rainbow Colors

Marilyn Alexander

Re - mem - ber our Ya - weh God backs up pro - mis - es. Red, -

5
or - ange, yel - low, green, blue, pur - ple: Rain - bow col - ors seen.



Visual for "Rainbow Colors" song; hang from the ceiling

God's Promises and Commands to Noah

1. "Be fruitful and multiply."
2. "I will never again curse the ground because of man. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature."
3. "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."
4. "The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea."
5. "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood."
6. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image."
7. "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you. Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood."
8. "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

Willa Whale
Puppet Script by Marilyn Alexander

- Willa: Hello, there, kids! My name is Willa Whale. I'm really just a puppet, but I'm pretending to be a toothed whale.
- Mrs. T.: Hi there, Willa Whale! What do you mean—you're a "toothed" whale?
- Willa: That means, Mrs. T., that, unlike my sister baleen whales, I have teeth. Sperm, beluga, and narwhal are all toothed whales. We [make biting motion] swallow our food whole.
- Mrs. T.: Do you have any fish stories for us today?
- Willa: If the story is about me, it has to be a *mammal* story: I'm not a fish, you know.
- Mrs. T.: Really!?! You look like a fish.
- Willa: But I'm not! I am different from a fish.
- Mrs. T.: How is that?
- Willa: Notice my tail fin. It's not up and down like a fish's but sideways.
- Mrs. T.: Sure enough.
- Willa: Fish breathe through gills, which absorb dissolved oxygen from water. I have lungs to breathe.
- Mrs. T.: You do? How can you breathe oxygen under water?
- Willa: Oh, I can't. I have to come to the surface from time to time to breathe. But I can hold my breath for a long time. Usually, I come up to breathe every 5 to 15 minutes, but I can go about 40 minutes without breathing. Actually, we sperm whales can hold our breath for 75 minutes.
- Mrs. T.: 75 minutes! Wow! That's over an hour! Let's see how long these kids can hold their breath. Kids, when I say, "Go," take a deep breath and hold it as long as you can. I'll time you. "Go!" [wait; check time] Did anyone hold his breath for over a minute, Willa?
- Willa: No [yes]. Too bad you're not whales, kids.
- Mrs. T.: I hear that whales are the biggest animals on earth. Is that right?
- Willa: Right, Mrs. T. I am a sperm whale, and I can grow to be 60 feet long. That's from the bottom step here to the back pew against the back wall!
- Mrs. T.: Wow! If God decided you should swallow a man, there would be plenty of room for him in your stomach, wouldn't there?
- Willa: Well, my stomach holds 2200 pounds. I've never heard of a man being that big. But I hear that whales *have* swallowed people before. The white whale of the Mediterranean Sea has swallowed men and once even a reindeer. Some men have lived to tell about it.
- Mrs. T.: Wait a minute! Are you telling me fish stories now?
- Willa: No, but if you believe the Bible you know that God *prepared* a great fish to swallow one of His prophets. Maybe it was a whale; maybe it wasn't. It doesn't matter. God can make anything He wants to make, large or small, to accomplish His purposes.
- Mrs. T.: That is the absolute truth! I hope all our clubbers know and believe that!
- Willa: If they were a whale and could think like a person, they would believe it. Jesus, the Creator of all life, made us whales pretty special. He can do anything.
- Mrs. T.: Like make you a super-fast swimmer.
- Willa: Right! Engineers have tried for years to learn how we whales can move as fast as their 10,000 horsepower submarines. It takes *us* only about 1,000 horsepower to move that fast. Why, going that fast,

we can even heave our 40-ton bodies completely out of the water.

Mrs. T.: How did Christ the Creator make you such a good swimmer?

Willa: He made my body *superbly* streamlined, put tiny ridges in my skin, and made my skin super slippery. [pause] Would you like to know about my blubber?

Mrs. T.: Do you blubber too? [Pretend to cry] Sometimes I just blubber and blubber.

Willa: No, no, no! I'm talking about my fat.

Mrs. T.: I can identify with fat too.

Willa: My blubber is very special. Heat can hardly flow across it, even when I'm in ice-cold water. Remember, I'm a mammal—a warm-blooded animal like you.

Mrs. T.: So you don't get cold, even in icy water. [pause] Being a mammal, you take good care of your babies, not like Sam Seahorse, who just lets them be after they're born.

Willa: Oh, yes! My calf is born tail-first under water. I must be very careful to get it to the surface before it drowns. Sometimes another whale will help as I gently nudge my baby until it is confident with its swimming. This sometimes takes about 30 minutes.

Mrs. T.: How big is your calf?

Willa: About 23 feet long.

Mrs. T.: That's some baby! Then you feed it fish, right?

Willa: No, Mrs. T. Don't you know mammals feed their babies mother's milk?

Mrs. T.: Oh, that's right. I keep thinking you're a fish.

Willa: I squirt the milk right into my baby's mouth—up to 130 gallons a day.

Mrs. T.: 130 gallons! That would be enough to fill 2½ of the city trash cans like the one at home.

Willa: Every day! So you can see that my baby grows extremely fast—2 inches a day and about seven pounds per hour. That's about 200 pounds a day.

Mrs. T.: Seven pounds per hour?! 200 pounds a day! Wow! *Now* I'm glad that I'm not a whale.

Willa: Oh, but Christ the Creator made whales to grow like that. Whale calves nurse from 7 to 12 months. I stay close to my calf and protect it for at least a year.

Mrs. T.: What a good mother! Tell me one more thing about yourself, Willa Whale.

Willa: Oh, you'll like this, Mrs. T. We whales like to sing.

Mrs. T.: Sing!?! Oh, Willa, I knew there was a reason why I like you so much. I like to sing too.

Willa: Do you? Well, listen to some of our whale songs. [pause; listen to recording of sperm and humpback whales found on cetaceanresearch.com/sounds.html]

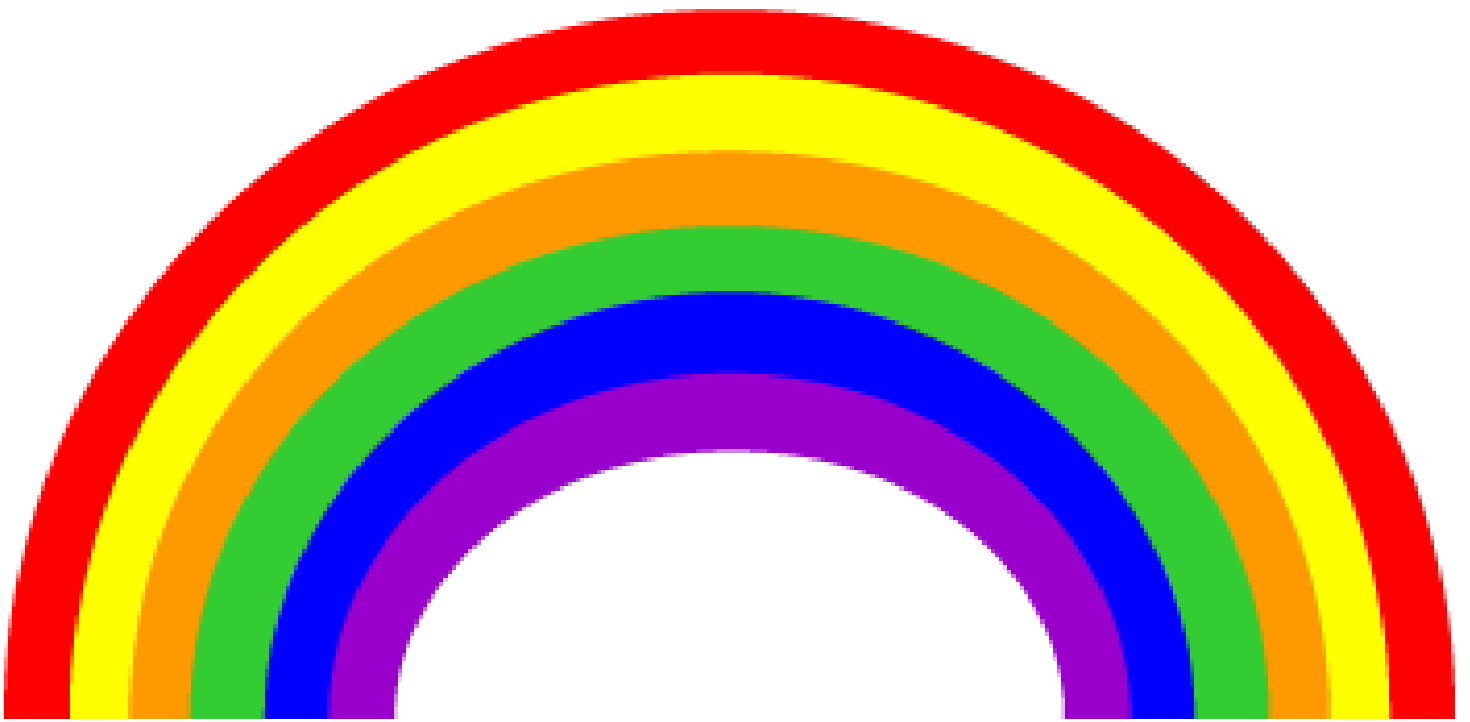
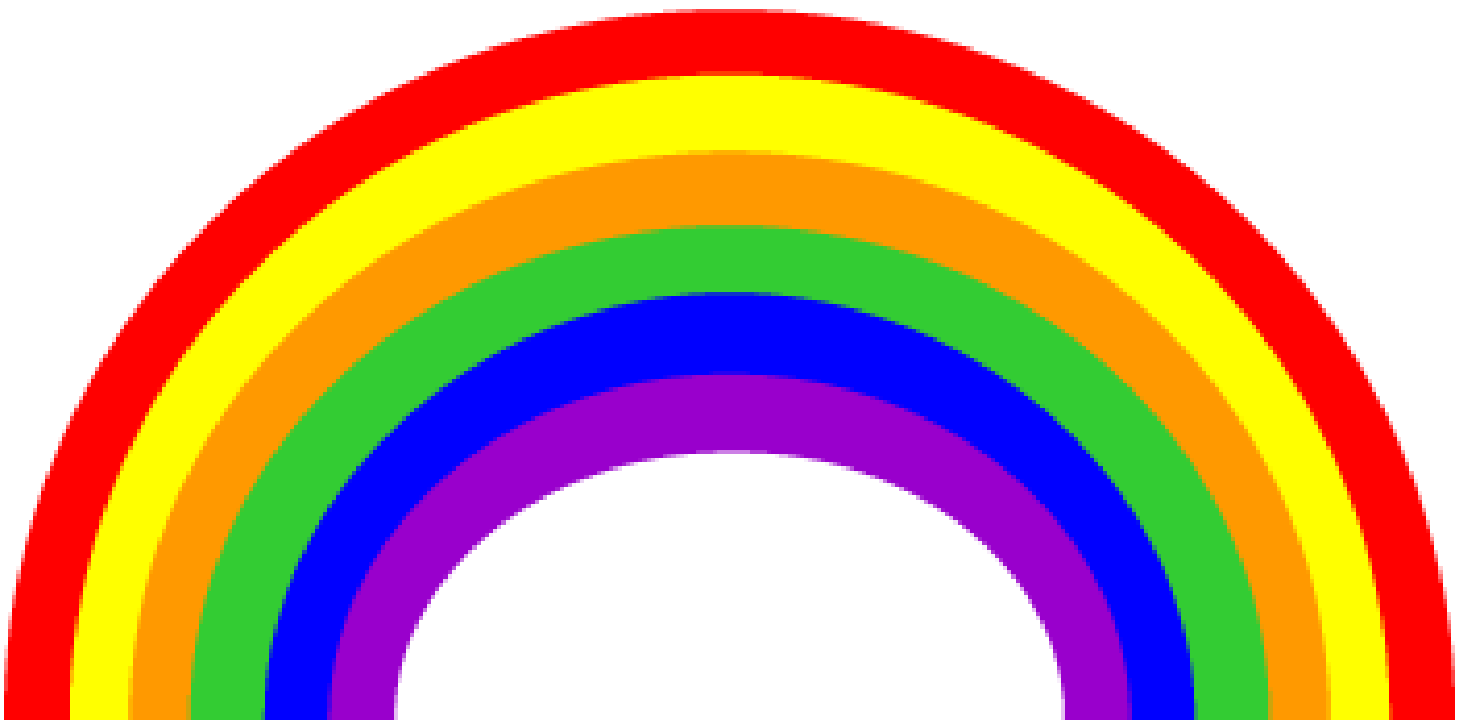
Mrs. T.: That's mighty pretty music, Willa.

Willa: Thank you. Thank you. Scientists think we sing to talk to each other, but maybe we sing just because we like to sing.

Mrs. T.: That's a good enough reason for me. The Bible says, "Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein" (Isa 42:10). I guess that includes you, Willa Whale.

Willa: Yes, it does. "I will praise God; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Ps 139:14).

Sources: *World Book Ency.* "Whale." 1980.
Vietmeyer, Noel. "Whales: Gentle Giants of the Deep." *Reader's Digest*. May 1989, p.55-60.
Internet: cetaceanresearch.com/sounds.html



<http://clipartix.com/rainbow-clip-art-image-12527/>

