

Les mots et les lieux Words and Places

Exploring with Jacques Roubaud

1. Arc-en-ciel

*Cren ar Draws leithoedd
Creating Across Languages*



What we'll learn:

- How to notice everyday details around us.
- How place names create images, and how we can compare these in different languages.
- How to pronounce some French place names.
- How a poem can draw attention to things we don't expect.
- How to write a poem in the form of a list that is fun to translate and read aloud.

PLUS

Going outside and
noticing your
surroundings is a
great way to stay
healthy!

- The French poet Jacques Roubaud loves to explore his city, Paris.
- You can use some of his ideas to explore the place where you live and write about it.



Here are two names of places in Paris.
Can you translate them?



What Welsh place names can you think of that include colours?

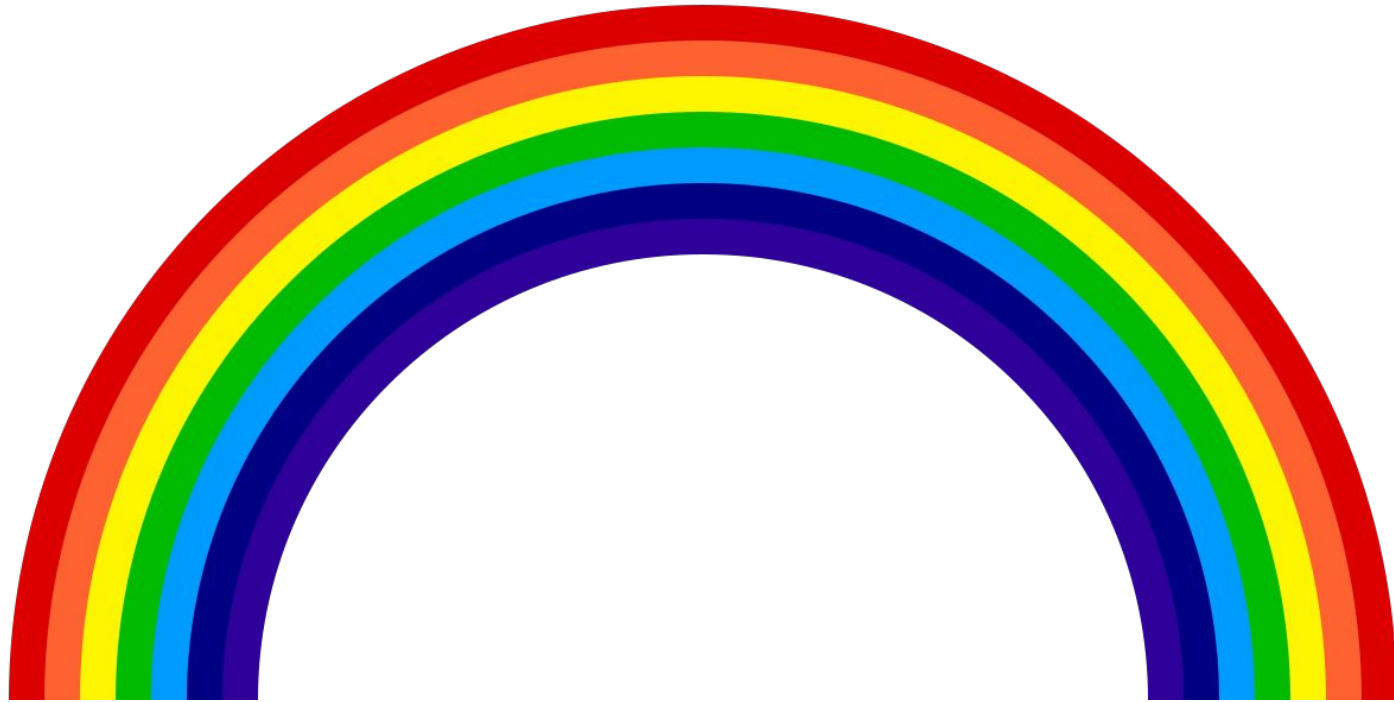
Here are a couple to start with:

Traeth Coch

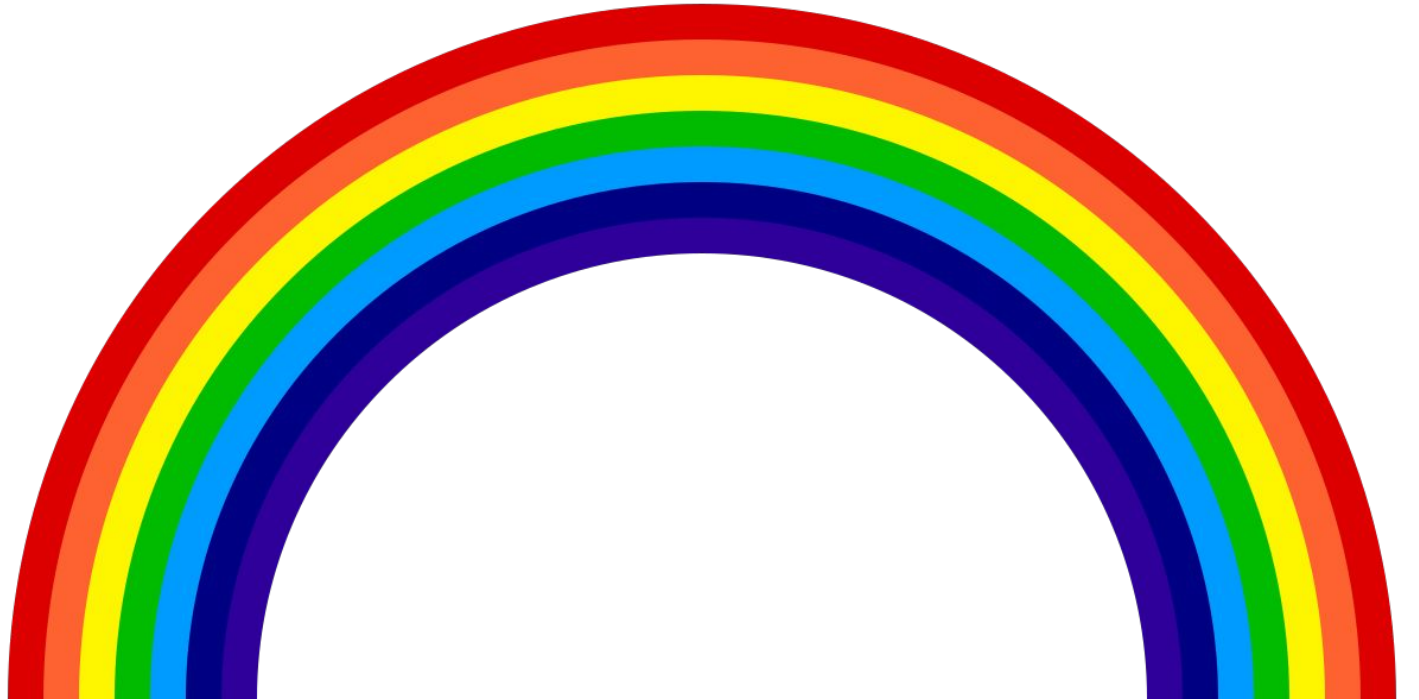
Lôn Lâs

- Can you translate them into French?
- List a few more place or street names with colours in them.
- What colours do not appear in any real place names you can think of?

1. Arc-en-ciel



Make a list of
the seven
colours of the
rainbow in
French.



Now read Jacques Roubaud's original poem 'Arc-en-ciel' in French, and its translation 'Rainbow'.

- The title may seem to tell you what the poem is about, but look closely to see what is actually being described...
- Where is the rainbow?

Arc-en-ciel

Jacques Roubaud

il pleut

la pluie s'arrête

il fait beau

le soleil brille

on voit

sur la rue VIOLET

sur la rue BLEUE

sur la rue du Chemin-VERT

sur la place du Château-ROUGE

un arc-en-ciel plein de trous

Rainbow

translated by Keith and Rosmarie Waldrop

it's raining

it stops raining

it's nice

the sun's shining

you can see

on Rue VIOLET

on Rue BLEUE

on Rue du Chemin-VERT

on Place du Château-ROUGE

a rainbow full of holes

Arc-en-ciel

Jacques Roubaud

Rainbow

translated by Keith and Rosmarie Waldrop

1

il pleut

la pluie s'arrête

il fait beau

le soleil brille

on voit

1. What is being noticed in the first part of the poem?

It's raining

it stops raining

It's nice

the sun's shining
you can see

2

sur la rue VIOLET

sur la rue BLEUE

sur la rue du Chemin-VERT

sur la place du Château-ROUGE

2. What is being noticed in these four lines? Look at your list of rainbow colours. Why are these lines in this order?

on Rue VIOLET

on Rue BLEUE

on Rue du Chemin-VERT

on Place du Château-ROUGE

3

un arc-en-ciel plein de trous

3. Why is the rainbow "full of holes"?

a rainbow full of holes

Arc-en-ciel

Rainbow

il pleut

it's raining

la pluie s'arrête

it stops raining

il fait beau

it's nice

le soleil brille

the sun's shining

on voit

you can see

sur la rue VIOLET

on Rue VIOLET

sur la rue BLEUE

on Rue BLEUE

sur la rue du Chemin-VERT

on Rue du Chemin-VERT

sur la place du Château-ROUGE

on Place du Château-ROUGE

un arc-en-ciel plein de trous

a rainbow full of holes

4. This could also be translated as "it's fine". Which do you prefer?

Extension: what do you notice about the translation of the French pronoun "on"?

5. What do you notice about the way "rue" is normally written in French as part of a street name?

6. What is the translation of "du"?

Your writing: find a hidden rainbow

- Go outside, or think about a place outside that you know well. It can be in the town or the countryside. Try to find the seven colours of the rainbow, either in words or objects (natural or man-made).
- Look for any signs that mention colours as words, but also notice the colours around you – plants, animals, empty crisp packets, people's clothes, reflections in windows. Look for ordinary things, notice where they are and write a sentence for each one. Think of it as a poem, but do not use rhyme.
- Arrange your sentences in the order of the colours of the rainbow, with each one starting on a new line (if you like, you can put the colour in capital letters). Using a dictionary, translate what you have written into French. Try reading it aloud.

Extension: further ideas for writing

Either:

Go for a walk and just look for one colour, but describe all the places you can see it, paying attention to natural and man-made objects as well as signs that mention it.

Or:

Try translating more Welsh place names into French. Does it change the way that you imagine each place? Write poem that describes a place by focusing on its name.