



**Rainbows**

Girlguiding  
Cymru

# The Rainbow story



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Olivia ran into the hall for the first Rainbow meeting of term. She couldn't wait to see all her Rainbow friends again!

'Hello Olivia!' laughed Sun their leader. Olivia thought that Sun looked different. She had been in the sunshine.

Later, in their Rainbow Chat, Olivia found out why. 'In the holidays I had a wonderful time visiting a place called Sangam,' said Sun. 'It is a World Centre that belongs to Rainbows and everyone else in guiding from all over the world. Sangam is in India.'

Does anyone know where that is?' Neeta put her hand up. 'It's a long way away and it is hot. My uncle lives there,' she said. 'Tigers live there too,' added Olivia. 'That's right. Let's have a look at where India is.'

She produced a blow-up globe and the Rainbows crowded round. Sun pointed to India and to the UK. Olivia loved the globe and wanted to look at more countries.

'Where is France?' she asked. 'I went there on holiday.' The other Rainbows chimed in: 'Where is America?' 'Where do the polar bears live?' 'Where is the rainforest?'

'Would you like to go on a global adventure and find out all about different countries around the world?' asked Sun. 'Yes!' shouted all the Rainbows. 'Great!' said Star. 'We have a brand new skills builder called Explore to try with lots of exciting activities from all over the world. Let's choose some!' Olivia was very excited as she helped to choose some activities. She couldn't wait to begin her global adventure!

At the very next meeting, they got started! Sun explained what they were going to do. 'At Sangam I met other Leaders from lots of different countries,' she told them. 'One lady, called Ruth, was from South Africa.'

She is the leader of a group of Teddies there' All the Rainbows burst out giggling. 'Why do teddies need a Leader?' laughed Olivia. Sun smiled. 'Rainbows in South Africa are called Teddies,' she explained. 'They wear bright yellow and white clothes, and do lots of outdoor activities because it is very sunny there.' 'Can we go and visit the Teddies?' asked Neeta.

Sun showed them South Africa on the globe. It was a long way away. 'It's a bit too far to visit, but Ruth and I thought it would be nice if you all made friends with her Teddies. We can send them letters and pictures.'

The Rainbows set to work at once, drawing pictures of their Rainbow clothes, their friends and the fun things they loved to do at Rainbows. Star wrote down some of their favourite games, and Maisy and Amy decorated them. Olivia drew herself holding the globe, with a big arrow pointing to South Africa.

'That's lovely,' said Sun. 'Let's make it into a friendship card for the Teddies. We can all write our names inside.' Sun promised to post everything to Ruth in South Africa the very next day. Olivia hoped they would get some letters back soon!

A few weeks later, Olivia and Neeta arrived at Rainbows to find Sun and Star carrying tables outside. The girls ran to help. Star gave them a pile of plastic cloths to spread over the tables. 'We must be doing something really messy tonight!' whispered Neeta. 'Great!' said Olivia. She loved to get messy!

Sun reminded the Rainbows that they had chosen to make paper for one of their activities. She told them all about how paper was invented in China, thousands of years ago, and also how the ancient Egyptians made paper from reeds. 'But we're going to make paper from other paper,' she explained. 'We are recycling old paper to make something new.' 'So it's good for the environment?' said Olivia. 'Yes,' replied Sun, 'and it should be fun too!' It was!

The Rainbows tore up old paper into little scraps, and Star whizzed them up with water in a blender. She poured the wet mushy mixture into a bowl. Olivia dipped in a square frame covered with a cloth. The first time, she got lots of lumpy bits on her cloth. She tried again and splashed mush all over the table! The third time, she got a nice even layer of mush on the cloth.

'When that dries out, it will be a piece of paper,' Sun told her. 'It takes a long time to dry, but you will see it next week.' The cloths were piled up with a heavy book on top, and the Rainbows cleared up.

The next week, the Rainbows were amazed to see their paper! It did not look like normal drawing paper – it was thicker and had rough edges. Olivia thought it was pretty.

'I have another surprise for you,' said Sun. 'Look, a parcel from South Africa!' 'Wow!' cheered the Rainbows. When they opened the parcel, they found lots of gifts from the Teddies.

There were photographs of girls in their yellow and white uniforms, drawings and postcards, and even some badges with teddy bears on.

'These are called "Shake a paw" badges,' said Sun. 'In South Africa, Teddies get this badge when they make their Promise.'

Can we send them some of our Rainbow badges?' asked Sophie. 'Good idea,' said Star. 'We'll make up a parcel with lots of exciting things in. But first, we have another Skills builder activity to do. 'Is it rafts?' called Olivia in excitement. She had been looking forward to this one! Well done - yes, we are going to make rafts tonight.'

Olivia and Neeta made a raft together. They used lolly sticks, corks and string. The raft had a mast and a sail made from red paper. It was a bit wonky but the girls were very proud of their raft. They named it 'Red Racer', and wished they could try it out. 'Come outside, Rainbows!' called Star. They rushed outside - and found a big paddling pool full of water!

'Now we can sail them!' exclaimed Neeta happily. The Rainbows had lots of fun sailing their rafts to and fro across the pool. Sun told them about people who lived in Pacific islands and sailed on rafts to trade food and goods with other islanders. The Rainbows piled grapes and nuts onto their rafts and traded them across the pool.

Olivia put too many grapes on the 'Red Racer' and it sank! 'Never mind Olivia,' said Star. 'These things happen at sea!'

The very last meeting of term was going to be special. The Rainbows were having an Indian evening, to remind Sun of her visit to India. 'Lots of wonderful animals live in India,' said Sun. The Rainbows made animal puppets in the shape of monkeys, elephants and peacocks. Olivia painted one in black and bright orange stripes to make her favourite animal - a tiger.

Next, Sun showed them a film of some Indian dancing and singing. It was very bright and lively. She put on some Indian music and taught the Rainbows some of the dance moves from the film. It was lots of fun!

Afterwards, Olivia and Neeta helped Star to make a fruity yoghurt drink called lassi. They put the drinks out on the table, where food was already set out. 'What are these?' Olivia asked curiously, looking at some triangle-shaped pastries.

'Mmm, samosas!' said Neeta. 'I love them!' Olivia tried a samosa, and decided she loved it too! It was a little bit spicy, and very delicious.

The Rainbows ate all the samosas, munched some sticky Indian sweets and drank their lassi. Olivia thought she would like to visit India and eat some more yummy food. 'Maybe when you are older you can go to Sangam and meet Guides from all over the world,' suggested Sun.

'That would be a real global adventure!' laughed Olivia. 'Oh, that reminds me!' exclaimed Sun. 'We have completed some activities from the Explore Skills Builder, so here are your skills builders badges and Have Adventures Theme award. Did you enjoy yourselves?'

'Yes!' shouted the Rainbows. 'I liked all of it,' said Olivia, 'but the best part is making friends with the Teddies.' 'That's good,' said Sun, 'because making friends is an important part of being Rainbows – and making friends in other countries is extra special! I hope you will all stay friends for a long time.!'

