Can you believe it?

Blue skies

The sky looks blue because of the way gas molecules in the air **reflect** light from the Sun. Dust, water drops and other particles dilute the blue because they reflect other colours, so the sky is very blue when the air is clear.

Rainbow colours

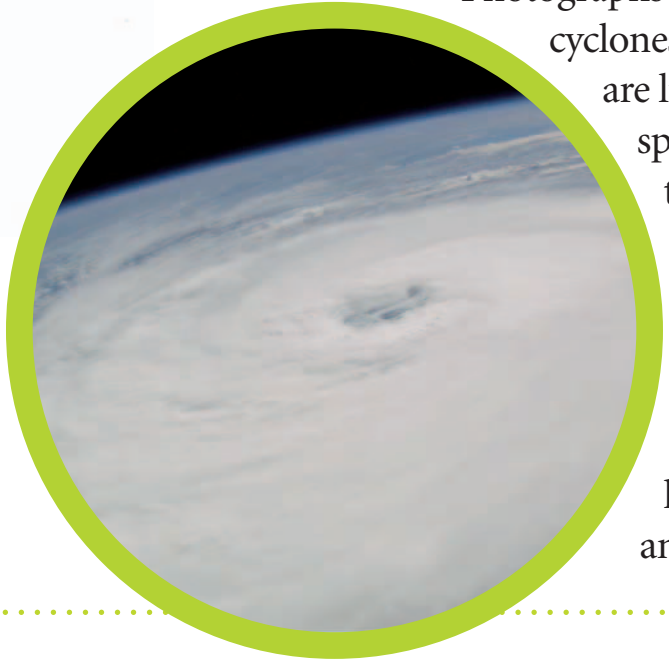
Rainbows are the reflection of the Sun in raindrops, which is why we see them after rain and why they are always opposite the Sun. The colours come from the way the raindrops split the sunlight into a **spectrum** of colour. We always see the colours of a rainbow in the same order: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.

> *The huge spiral of clouds that make up a cyclone is very clear in this photograph. The tiny eye, which looks like a button, can be seen in the centre.*

> *In June 2006, a brilliant spectrum of colour lit the freezing sky above the Idaho plains in the north of the USA. The Sun shone through ice crystals in very high clouds to make this unusual meteorological event called a 'circumhorizon arc'.*

< *This is an orbiting spacecraft like the one that took the photograph below.*

Cyclone tracking



Photographs from space are used to track cyclones and to see which way they are likely to go. There are also special aircraft that can fly into the middle, or eye, of the cyclone to get information about its size and strength. Weather ships and **buoys** also send information to cyclone-tracking centres about what is happening with the wind and water.