## $\therefore$ SPECTPA!

## Graphing the Rainbow

## Graphing the Rainbow Student Worksheet

When light from any source-a light bulb, a computer monitor, a planet-passes through a prism or a diffraction grating, it produces a unique rainbow pattern.


The pattern may be mostly bright with a few dark stripes, or dark with a few bright stripes, or some combination.


The intensity of each color of light can be plotted on a line graph like the one below.


## Graphing the Rainbow

Look at the following examples. Each of the spectra on the left can also be displayed as a line plot, as shown on the right. Bright colors have high intensity, as shown along the y-axis. The first spectrum is called a continuous spectrum. In a continuous spectrum, every color has the same intensity.




## ,

## Graphing the Rainbow

Now, try matching each of the spectra from column A with its corresponding line plot from column B.

## A


B



