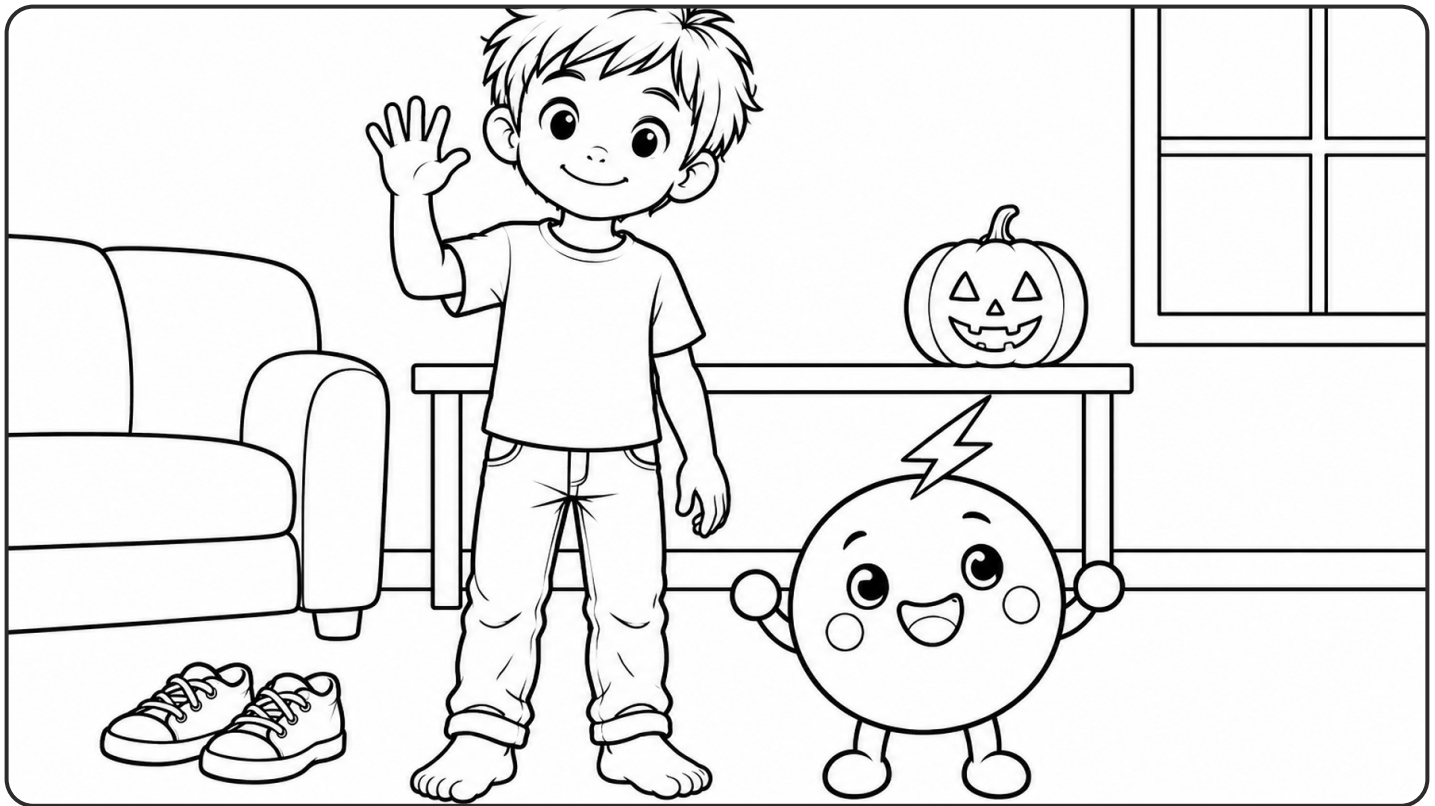


Why do things glow under a black light?



In a dark room with a purple black light, something amazing happens. White socks glow, a smile glows, and highlighter drawings shine like magic! Why do things glow under a black light?



Why?

1. Some light is invisible.

Just past violet, there is a light called ultraviolet, or U V for short. Your eyes can't see it. A black light is a lamp that gives off mostly ultraviolet light.

2. Electrons jump up...

Some things are full of special stuff that soaks up ultraviolet light. When the invisible light hits them, their electrons get energy and jump up high. Boing!

3. ...and fall back down with light.

Then they fall back down and let the energy go as light that we can see, like bright blue, green or pink. Invisible light goes in, and colorful light comes out!

Try it! Glow hunt

You need: a black light flashlight, a highlighter and a grown-up

1. Draw with a highlighter.
2. Turn off the lights, and shine the black light on your drawing.
3. Then try white paper and a white sock. What glows?

What happened? Invisible light goes in, and colorful light comes out!

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/blacklight



scan with a grown-up

Color Zippy too!

