Color and Light

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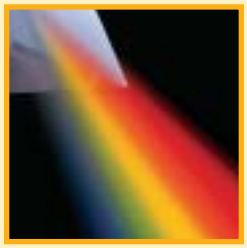

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Glossary

absorb to take in

color filter substance that allows only certain colors of light to pass through it

concave lens lens that is thinner in the center and thicker at the edges

convex lens lens that is thicker in the center and thinner at the edges

cornea clear covering over the iris and the pupil in the eye

electromagnetic spectrum all the types of electromagnetic waves, listed in order of wavelength

electromagnetic wave wave made of vibrating electric and magnetic fields; part of the electromagnetic spectrum

energy ability to cause change

focal point point at which rays of light meet after refracting from a convex lens

gamma rays electromagnetic waves with the shortest wavelengths and highest energy

illuminated reflecting light that strikes it

image likeness or copy

infrared rays electromagnetic waves with long wavelengths and low energy

iris colored part of the eye around the pupil

lens piece of glass or plastic with curved surfaces that refracts light; part of the eye that focuses light rays on the retina

light form of energy that travels in waves that the human eye sees as visible light

luminous giving off its own light

microwaves electromagnetic waves with long wavelengths and low energy, used in microwave ovens

mirage illusion caused by the refraction of light rays

opaque blocking light

optic nerve nerve that carries messages from the eye to the brain

primary colors of light red, green, and blue light

prism solid, transparent object that refracts light that passes through it, separating the light into the colors of the visible spectrum

pupil opening in the center of the iris in the eye

radio waves electromagnetic waves with the longest wavelengths and lowest energy

ray narrow beam of light that travels in a straight line from a light source

reflect to bounce off a surface

refraction bending of light as it moves from one material into another

retina layer at the back of the eye that receives images

shadow dark area made when an object blocks light

translucent letting some, but not all, light through

transparent letting light pass through easily

ultraviolet rays electromagnetic waves that can cause sunburn and skin cancer

visible spectrum range of wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum that humans can see

wave rhythmic pattern that carries energy

wavelength distance from one wave crest to the next or from one wave trough to the next

white light light from a light source such as the sun, a flashlight, or a light bulb

x-rays electromagnetic waves used to take pictures of teeth and bones

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