

Project glossary

absorb

The ability to soak something up, such as a liquid or light.

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afterimage

The illusion of an image that the brain still perceives after the stimulus has been removed.

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beam

A group of light rays that move in the same direction.

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concave

A surface that curves inwards.

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cone

A specialised cell on the eye's retina that detects coloured light.

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convex

A surface that curves outwards.

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cornea

The clear dome at the front of the eye that helps to focus light.

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darkness

The absence of light.

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electromagnetic spectrum

The range of light on Earth, including visible light that humans can see.

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iris

The coloured part of the eye containing muscles that control the size of the pupil.

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lens

The part of the eye behind the pupil that changes shape to finely focus light.

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light meter

A device used to measure light intensity in lux.

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light source

Something that produces light. It can be natural, such as the Sun, or artificial, such as a light bulb.



light wave

The wave-like way in which a ray of light moves in a straight line.

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lux

A unit of measurement for light intensity.

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opaque

A material that does not allow light to pass through.

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optical fibre

A thin, flexible fibre with a glass core and transparent cladding that carries information as light.

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optic nerve

The nerve that takes electrical signals from the eye’s retina to the brain.

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perceive

To become aware of something using the senses, for example, sight.

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plane mirror

A mirror with a flat surface.

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prism

A transparent block of glass or plastic that separates white light into a visible spectrum of colours.

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pupil

The black hole in the centre of the eye’s iris that lets light through.

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ray

A narrow beam of light.

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reflect

To bounce off a surface.

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reflector

An object that reflects light.

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refract

The bending of light as it passes from one transparent medium to another.

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retina

The area at the back of the eye where light rays are focused, containing specialised, light-sensitive cells.



rod

A specialised cell on the eye’s retina that detects light intensity and discerns between light and dark.

scatter

To move apart in different directions.

shadow

An area of darkness created when an object blocks light.

spectrum

A band of colours produced when white light is separated.

translucent

A material that allows some light to pass through.

transparent

A material that allows most light to pass through.

ultraviolet (UV) light

Harmful rays of light from the Sun that age or burn the skin and cannot be seen by humans.

visible light

The part of the electromagnetic spectrum that the human eye can see, also known as white light.

wavelength

The distance between two identical points on a light wave.

white light

Seemingly colourless light that is made up of a spectrum of coloured light from violet to red.

Scientific terms glossary

conclusion

An explanation of what has been found out using the data collected.

data

Collected information or facts, including numbers, words, measurements or observations.

demonstration

The act of showing someone how to do something, or how something works.



diagram

A drawing with labels that show the parts of something.

equipment

An object or objects that are needed for a particular purpose, such as a data logger or light meter app.

fair test

A test or investigation in which only one variable is changed.

graph

A way of presenting data that shows how two sets of information are related.

investigation

An activity that involves a person studying a subject or problem carefully to learn facts or answer a question. An investigation includes a planning, doing, recording and reviewing stage.

method

A set of instructions or steps to follow in a specific order to complete a particular task.

observe

To watch or look at something carefully.

question

Something we ask using the words how, what, where, when, who and why.

record

To write down data, such as numbers, words, measurements or observations in different ways, such as lists, tables, charts or labelled diagrams.

research

To study a subject to discover new facts or information.

results

The data collected from an investigation or test.

table

A way of recording data in rows and columns.

variable

A factor, such as an object or condition that changes during an investigation.

