

SEEING LIGHT

KEY IDEAS

- Eyes detect light, color and differences in brightness
- Light travels into, and through, the eye
- The brain makes sense of what the eyes see

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

- What do your eyes do?
- How do some animals' eyes differ from human eyes?
- How do you tell the difference between bright and dim light?

EYES DETECT LIGHT

- Eyes can detect different brightness and colors.
- Light travels to the eyes and enters them through the pupils.
- The iris controls the size of each pupil to let in more or less light.
- The lens of an eye focuses the light onto the retina at the back of the eye.
- Images of what the eyes are focusing on form on the retina, which contains sensitive receptor cells that convert the light into signals.
- The signals travel, via the optic nerves, to the brain which interprets these signals.

ANIMALS' EYES

- Animals' eyes differ from human eyes.
- Cats and dogs have much better night vision than humans and their eyes are more sensitive to movement.
- This means that they are good hunters.
- Other animals, like horses, have eyes pointing sideways rather than straight ahead.

- This gives them very good peripheral vision.
- This helps them to detect predators.
- Hunting birds, such as eagles and owls, have excellent binocular vision which help them to spot their prey from a long way off.

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