

LIGHT TRAVELS

KEY IDEAS

- Light illuminates objects
- Light can come from a natural or artificial source
- We detect light with our eyes

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

- What do you think light is?
- Where can light come from?
- How do you think you would manage if there was no light?
- What do you depend on light for?

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT SOURCES OF LIGHT

- Light moves in all directions from the source that is creating the light (the sun or a light bulb, for example).
- The sun is the main source of light for living things on earth.
- Other sources of light include flames, incandescent materials (eg hot wires or hot ceramic mantels in gas lamps (and electricity travelling through air (as in lightning) or through a very low pressure gas (as in fluorescent lighting tubes).

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.

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