

- Light and Shadows - Glossary -

Colour:	A property of an object produced by the wavelength of light that the object reflects.
Concave Lens:	Curved in like the inner surface of a sphere. Concave lenses turn to spread light out.
Convex Lens:	Curved out, like the back of a spoon. Convex lenses concentrate light by bending the rays to a common point once they pass through the lens.
Dispersion:	To spread or scatter. The separating out of different wavelengths of white light into a spectrum of colours as it passes through a prism or drop of water or similar transparent object.
Emit:	To give off something as in the sun giving off light.
Kaleidoscope:	A tube through which can be seen symmetrical patterns caused by reflections from mirrors.
Light:	A form of energy. That energy emitted by the sun or by a chemical reaction to which the eye is sensitive.
Light Meter:	Instrument that measures the intensity of light in a particular area.
Luminescent:	To glow or to give off light at low temperatures, as in fireflies.
Magnify:	To make small things look bigger by looking at them through one or more convex lenses.
Opaque:	A material that does not let light pass through. Wood, some plastic and metal objects are opaque.
Prism:	A three-sided length of glass. Light passing through it is refracted separating the colour of white light into a spectrum of colours.
Rainbow:	Nature's display of the spectrum of colours produced by the dispersion of colours as light passes through droplets of water falling through the sky during a rainstorm. Droplets producing specific colours lie in arcs of a circle across the sky which is why the rainbow takes the shape of an arc.
Reflect:	To bounce off of a surface, as in light bouncing off a mirror.
Refraction:	The bending of a light ray as it passes from one medium to

another.

Shadow:

A dark image or figure cast on the ground or some surface by an object blocking incoming light.

Translucent:

A material that allows some light to pass through it but scatters the light in the process so that images are not clear. Frosted glass is one such material.

Transparent:

A material that lets light pass through it so that objects can be seen clearly on the other side.

Visible Spectrum:

A band of colours that makes up visible light. Each colour is generated by a different wavelength of light, the longest being red and the shortest being violet.

White Light:

Light that contains all the wavelengths of colour in the visible spectrum from red to violet.