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| **Light and Shadows****Glossary of Important Terms** |

**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. Objects look smaller when looking through a concave lens.

**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. Objects look larger when looking through a convex 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.

**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 (ROY G BIV) produced by the dispersion of colours as light passes through droplets of water falling through the sky during a rainstorm.

**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 light in the process so that images are not clear. Examples: frosted glass, lampshade, tissue paper, etc.

**Transparent:** A material that lets light pass through it so that objects can be seen clearly on the other side. Example: a window, clear plastic, etc.

**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.