

Science Data Sheet

Light

1. Light sources can be divided into two types:
 - a) Natural sources (for example the sun, stars or animals that produce light).
 - b) Artificial or man made sources (for example candles, electric lamps, fluorescent tubes, television sets etc.)
2. Light travels in waves which move in straight lines.
3. Light can pass through a vacuum, air, water, glass and many other materials.
4. If a material allows light to pass through it, it is called transparent.
5. Some materials allow light to pass through, but the light is spread out and a blurred image is seen. These materials are called translucent.
6. If a material does not allow light to pass it is called opaque. Opaque materials cast shadows by blocking the passage of light. The closer an object is to a light source the bigger and less distinct is the shadow.
7. The direction in which a beam of light is travelling can be altered using a mirror. This is called reflection. Any shiny object can be used as a mirror. Dull or matt surfaces do not reflect light nearly as well.
8. When light passes from one material to another (for example from air to water) it changes direction. This is known as refraction