Light is energy that travels in waves and is produced by hot, energetic objects. Light travels in a straight line.

Light can be reflected or absorbed by a surface. When light is reflected, it bounces off that surface (like a mirror). When light is absorbed, it is trapped by that surface (like your body). When light hits a reflective surface, like a mirror, it will bounce back at the same angle. The angles at which light strikes a surface is the angle of incidence. The angle at which light reflects off a surface is the angle of reflection. The angle of incidence and reflection are equal.

Light that passes through matter is transmitted by the material. If light is not transmitted, some of it is reflected or absorbed. Transparent means that light is transmitted or passes through it. Translucent means that some light is transmitted and some is reflected and scattered. Opaque is when light is absorbed.

When an object is placed in a glass of water it appears to be broken. This is because of light refraction. Light changes direction when it enters a new medium. A medium is any substance through which a wave is transmitted. Light in air travels fast. Light in water travels more slowly. When light slows down, it changes direction. When light changes direction or bends, it is called refraction. Refraction is caused by the change of the speed of light as it travels through different mediums.

Light travels in waves. Frequency is the measure of the number of waves that pass by a given point in one second. Light is one kind of radiant energy. Radiant energy includes waves of all different wavelengths and frequencies. When all the types of radiant energy are arranged in order we have the Electromagnetic Spectrum. We can only see one portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. That portion is called visible light. Although we see white light, it's actually made up of many colors. The colors of the spectrum are: red, orange, yellow, green,
blue, violet. Prisms separate light into the colors of the spectrum. A rainbow is a natural prism.
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