

complementary
colors

Any two colors that
combine to form white
light or black pigment

concave lens

A lens that is thinner
in the center than at
the edges.

concave mirror

A mirror with a
surface that curves
inward.

convex lens

A lens that is thicker
in the center than at
the edges

convex mirror

A mirror with a
surface that curves
outward.

diffuse reflection

Reflection that occurs when parallel rays of light hit a rough surface and all reflect at different angles.

focal point

The point at which light rays parallel to the optical axis meet, or appear to meet, after being reflected (or refracted) by a mirror (or lens).

image

A copy of an object formed by reflected or refracted rays of light.

index of refraction

A measure of the amount a ray of light bends when it passes from one medium to another.

lens

A curved piece of glass or other transparent material that is used to refract light.

mirage

An image of a distant object caused by refraction of light as it travels through air of varying temperature.

opaque material

A material that reflects or absorbs all of the light that strikes it.

optical axis

An imaginary line that divides a mirror in half

pigments

Colored substance that is used to color other materials.

plane mirror

A flat mirror that produces an upright virtual image the same size as the object.

primary colors

Three colors that can be used to make any other color.

rays

A straight line used to represent a light wave.

real image

An upside-down image formed where rays of light meet.

regular reflection

Reflection that occurs when parallel rays of light hit a smooth surface and all reflect at the same angle.

secondary colors

Any color produced by combining equal amounts of any primary colors.

translucent material

A material that scatters light as it passes through it.

transparent material

A material that transmits light without scattering it.

virtual image

An upright image formed where rays of light appear to meet or come from.
