

Light in Our Lives

Get Started

Long ago the only source of light on the earth was natural light. It came from the sun, and from some types of plants and animals that glowed in the dark. Humans used the sun to guide them in their daily lives. They woke up when the sun rose and went to sleep when the sun set. They planted seeds when the days got longer. They harvested their crops when the days got shorter.

Then humans discovered how to make fire. They could now make their own light, and take control of their lives. Today, thanks to electricity, we have many sources of safe, indoor light.

Can you imagine life without light? What would a day be like in your classroom if the lights were turned off?



Work On It



1. Take a look inside and outside the house on this page. Make a list of all the light sources you can find. Decide if they are natural or **artificial** (human-made) sources of light.
2. Now imagine that the lights were turned off. Which activities do you think would have to stop and why?
3. Write or draw a picture which tells when and why the following comments might be made, either in the picture or if you heard someone say them:
 - a. There's not enough light in here.
 - b. We don't need all these lights on.
 - c. It's too dark for you to read in this room.
 - d. Don't forget to turn off the lights.

Communicate



Write

1. The light bulbs in this house all give off white light. When have you seen coloured lights in use? Why do you think coloured lights were chosen for that use?
2. Take another look at the picture of the house. Which things can you find that give off both light and heat? Which things give off only light?
3. The sun is a **light source** that we can't control. What can we do to protect ourselves from too much sunlight?
4. Make a chart with titles What I Know About Light, What I Want to Find Out, and What I Learned. Add to your chart as you learn more about light.