

Heat and Light Energy



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Glossary

absorption (uhb-SORP-shuhn) the taking in of energy by an object (14)

concave lens (kon-KAYV LENZ) a lens that is thicker at the edges and thinner in the middle; causes light waves to spread apart (22)

conduction (kuhn-DUHK-shuhn) the transfer of thermal energy between two objects or materials that are touching (7)

conductor (kuhn-DUHK-tur) a material through which thermal energy moves easily (7)

convection (kuhn-VEK-shuhn) the transfer of thermal energy by the movement of a liquid or a gas (8)

convex lens (kon-VEKS LENZ) a lens that is thicker in the middle and thinner at the edges; causes light waves to come together (22)

electromagnetic spectrum (i-lek-troh-mag-NET-ik SPEK-truhm) the range of all electromagnetic waves, including those that can and cannot be seen with the human eye, listed in order of wavelength (13)

frequency (FREE-kwuhn-see) the number of wavelengths that pass through a given point each second (13)

heat (HEET) the transfer of thermal energy from matter that is warmer to matter that is cooler (6)

insulator (IN-suh-lay-tur) a material through which thermal energy does not move easily (7)

lens (LENZ) a curved piece of clear material that refracts light, such as in the human eye, eyeglasses, and telescopes (18)

light energy (LITE EN-ur-jee) a form of energy that travels in electromagnetic waves, some of which can be seen with the human eye (12)

opaque (oh-PAYK) not allowing any light to pass through (14)

radiation (ray-dee-AY-shuhn) the transfer of energy by electromagnetic waves, which can move through both matter and space (9)

reflection (ri-FLEK-shuhn) the bouncing of light, heat, or sound off an object (15)

refraction (ri-FRAK-shuhn) the bending of light as it moves from one material to another (15)

temperature (TEM-pur-uh-chur) how hot or cold something is; the average kinetic energy of the particles in a substance (5)

thermal energy (THER-muhl EN-ur-jee) the sum of the kinetic energy of all the moving particles within an object (4)

translucent (tranz-LOO-suhnt) allowing some light to pass through, but preventing objects from being seen clearly through it (14)

transparent (tranz-PAIR-uhnt) allowing nearly all light to pass through (14)

wavelength (WAYV-length) the distance from a point on one wave to the same point on the next wave (13)