Name: _____ Date: _____

WHAT IS LIGHT?

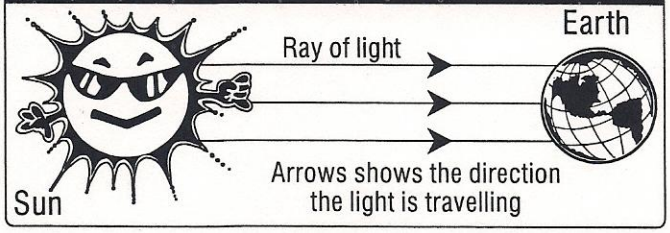
Light is the form of radiant energy that stimulates the organs of sight, having for normal human vision wavelengths ranging from about 3900 to 7700 angstroms and traveling at a speed of about 300 000 km per second. One angstrom = 0.00000001 cm.

WHAT??? This does not help us much, but if we look at the definition above, it basically says:

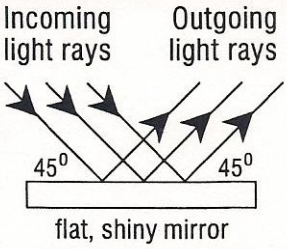
Light is a type of energy we can see.

To help us we need to look a little closer at some of the properties of light.

1) Light travels in straight lines.

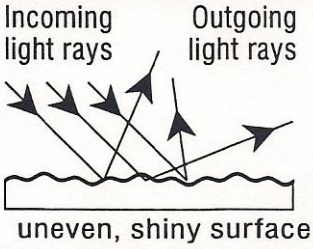


2) Light reflects off smooth, shiny, flat surfaces in a *regular reflection pattern*.



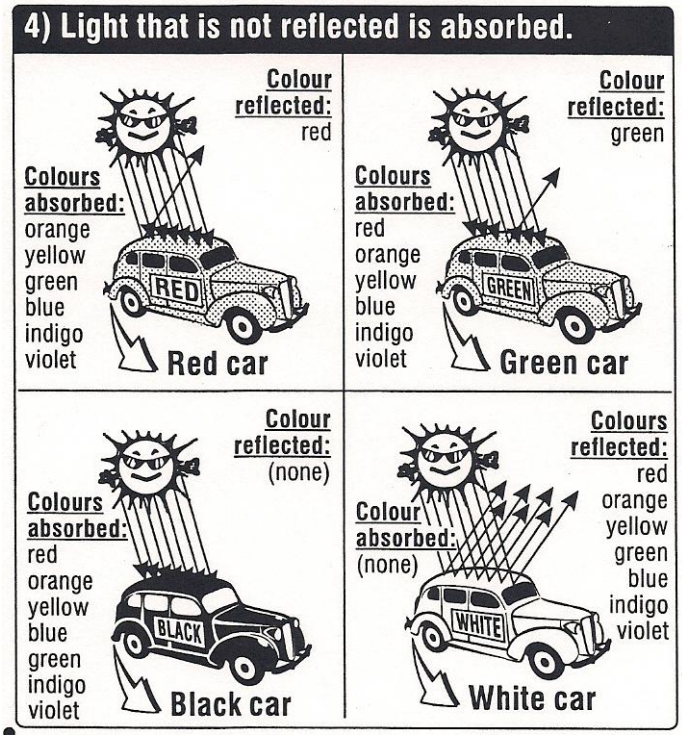
Regular reflection occurs in a bathroom mirror

3) Light reflects off rough, shiny, uneven surfaces in a *diffuse reflection pattern*.

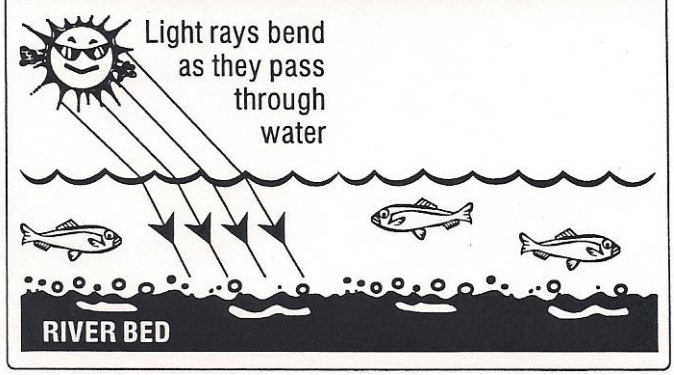


Diffuse reflection occurs on the top of a tin can

4) Light that is not reflected is absorbed.



5) Light bends as it passes through water



Think about what you have learned. Answer the questions below based on what you have just read.

1. Why do we have day and night?

2. Why would someone use a mirror to look into when doing their make-up?

3. Why do you look funny when you look at your reflection in aluminum foil?

4. What do you think are the seven official colours of a rainbow?

5. Why would a good spear fisher not throw his spear where he sees the fish?