

A Ray of Light

A RIF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Themes: Art, Nature, Perception, Photography

Grade Level: Kindergarten to 5th grade

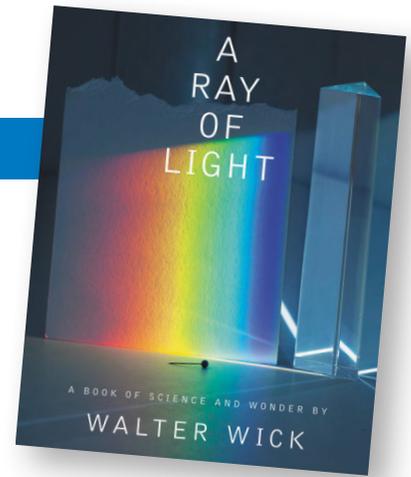
Book Brief: Have you ever wondered what light is made of and how it fits alongside everything else in the world? This book introduces the mystery behind incandescence, light waves, the color spectrum, and iridescence as well as how we perceive light in our world and beyond.

Author:

Walter Wick

Photographer:

Walter Wick



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background: Can your child think of some of the many uses for light? Where do we see light in our daily lives? Where does light come from?

While reading: Look closely at the photographs on each page. How does light appear in the photographs? What information can you learn from the photographs?

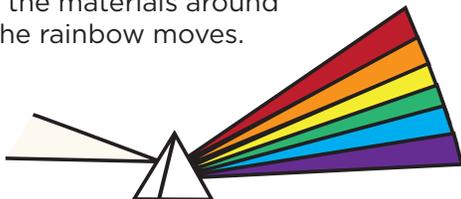
After reading, ask questions:

- What are some sources of light featured in the book?
- Where do colors come from?
- What are some ways you can measure light?

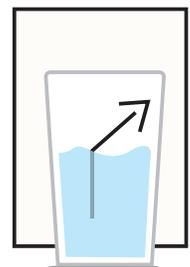
RELATED ACTIVITIES

BECOME A LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHER There are many photographs throughout the book that capture the science of light such as incandescence, light waves, the color spectrum, and iridescence. With your child, think of a place where you see one of these sources of light, either artificially or in nature. Then, use a camera (such as a phone or disposable camera) to capture an image of that light source. If you'd like, come up with a title and write a caption for your photograph.

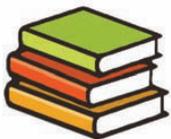
CREATE A RAINBOW Put water and a small mirror in a glass. Use the sunlight or a flashlight to direct light through the water onto the mirror and look for your rainbow on the wall or a piece of paper in front of the mirror. Move the materials around to see how the rainbow moves.



REFRACTION EXPERIMENT Fill a clear glass halfway with water. On a piece of paper have your child draw an arrow (vertical, horizontal, or diagonal). Then, put the drawing behind the glass and observe the arrow by looking through the glass. Did they notice any changes to the arrow? Ask if your child has any ideas about or explanations for why that happened.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS ABOUT LIGHT

- **The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors (2010)**
- **Investigate Light: Bouncing Light (2011)**