

We need light to see things and light comes from something that is hot or burning. A torch or light bulb has tungsten wire which glows when hot. Candles produce light by burning chemicals. Some light sources are more directional than others.

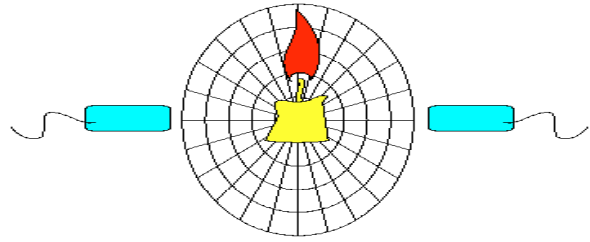
In this activity the children use a light sensor to take light level readings. They 'do an investigation' where they need to make sure their tests are fair. For example, they need to control how far away the light source is.

## You will need

A candle, some torches, a torch without a reflector, tungsten lamp, fluorescent strip light and daylight. Light sensor, interface, cable, software, computer and monitor.

## Starting points

How many ways can we get light? Can you put them in order of brightness? Why do scientists measure light levels instead of guessing them?



## Investigate

Use the light sensor at the same distance from the source. Stray light will affect your readings, so place a tube made of card around the sensor.

## Extra

Does light come from the back and sides of a light source? Place a candle in the middle of a circle and take readings around it. Light spreads out in all directions from a light source. This is why we use reflectors and lamp shades.