

The Light You See

The electromagnetic spectrum is filled with different waves of energy, but visible light is the only wave that we can see.

Gamma Rays:

Rays that carry a lot of energy. Outer space is the biggest gamma-ray producer!



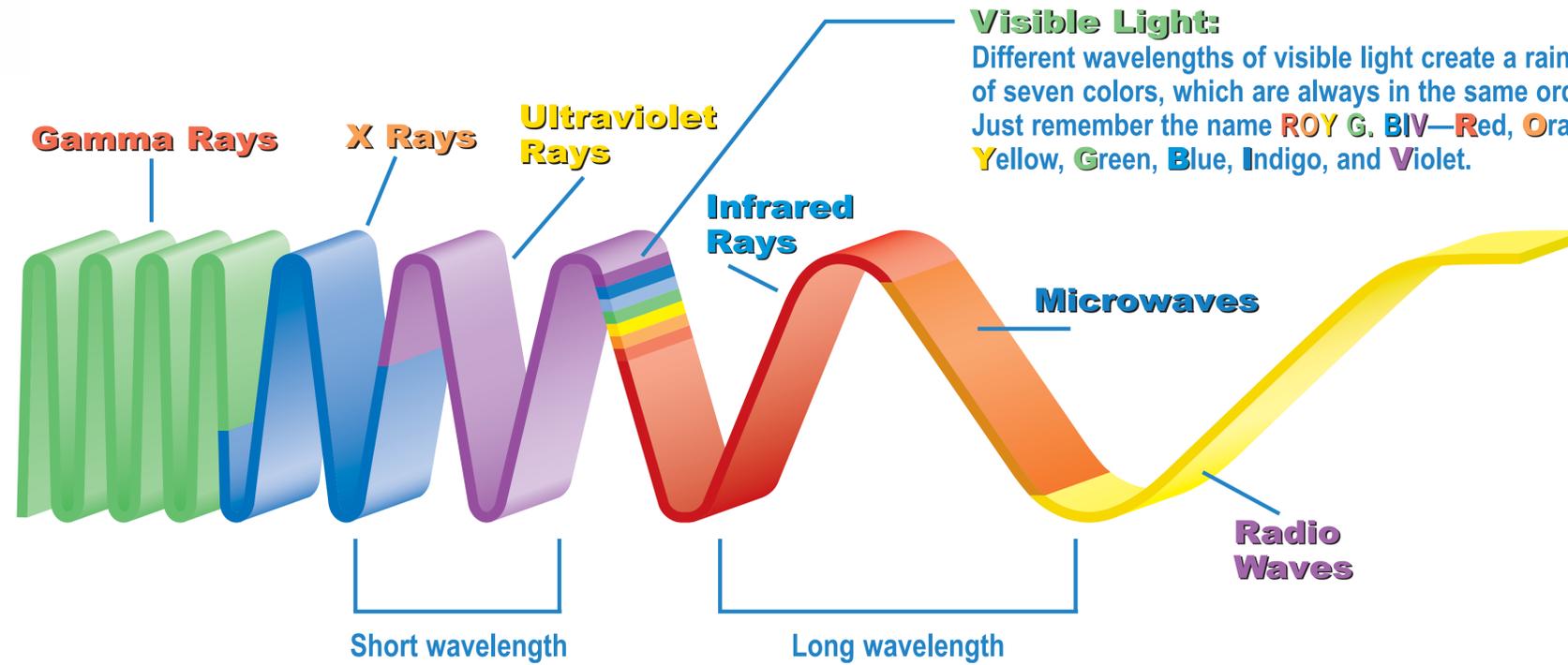
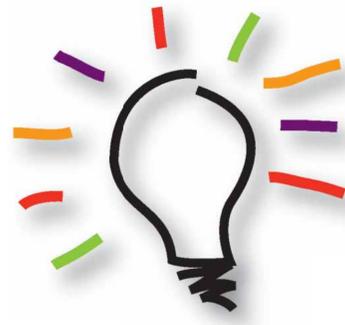
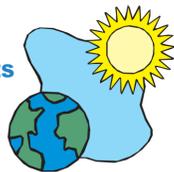
X Rays:

These rays are used to take pictures of teeth, bones, and organs inside the body.



Ultraviolet Rays:

These rays are found in sunlight and are absorbed by the earth's ozone layer, which protects humans.



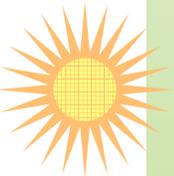
Visible Light:

The only part of the spectrum that humans can see.



Infrared Rays:

They carry the sun's heat to the earth and make human skin feel warm.



Microwaves:

Rays that are short and easy to direct. The energy of microwaves is converted into heat, most commonly used to cook food.



Radio Waves:

These waves carry music to your radio and are also emitted by stars and gasses in space.



Light Up History!



400,000 B.C.	1,500 B.C.	600 B.C.	280 B.C.	100	400	1704	1747	1800	1801	1864	1879	1913	1930	1960	1962	2000	2004
Early humans begin using torches and campfires to light up the night.	Sundials are invented to tell time using the location of sun shadows.	Oil lamps made out of pottery are invented as a less expensive source of light.	One of the first lighthouses is built, in the harbor of Alexandria, Egypt, to signal to ships in the Mediterranean Sea.	The first portable lanterns made out of horns are developed.	The candle is invented.	Sir Isaac Newton publishes <i>Opticks</i> , a book about light and the light spectrum.	Benjamin Franklin begins to study electricity and invents the lightning rod.	Infrared rays are discovered by astronomer William Herschel.	Ultraviolet light is discovered by German physicist Johann Wilhelm Ritter.	Kerosene lamps light homes in New York City.	Thomas Edison invents first practical lightbulb.	Irving Langmuir of the GE Research Lab develops the first electric gas-filled lamp.	Thomas Edison's experiments with plastic filaments lead to the first GE Plastics department.	Dennis Gabor coins the term <i>hologram</i> to describe three-dimensional images created by splitting a beam of light from a laser in two.	LED (Light Emitting Diodes) are invented by GE. LEDs are tiny colored lightbulbs often used to light up electronic gadgets.	High-intensity bulbs are used on the space shuttle.	The 125th anniversary of the lightbulb.