

Nova’s Bright Ideas: Grade 3 Light Word Mat

Learning objective: To understand and use key scientific vocabulary related to the topic of Light.

Key Vocabulary

Explore these key terms grouped by category. Use this mat to help you describe how light travels, how shadows are formed, and how we see objects.

Light source An object that produces its own light.	Reflection When light bounces off a shiny surface.	Opaque A material that does not let any light pass through.
Transparent A material that lets all light pass through.	Translucent A material that lets some light pass through.	Shadow An area of darkness formed when an object blocks light.
Ray A single line of light that travels in a straight line.	Pupil The dark hole in the center of the eye that lets light in.	Retina The part at the back of the eye that detects light.
Mirror A smooth, shiny surface that reflects light.	Surface The outside layer of an object that can be touched.	Absorb When a material takes in light energy.
Beam A concentrated stream of light rays.	Darkness The absence of light.	Spectrum The range of colors that make up white light.
Explain why Nova...	If you hold a piece...	Give an example ...
Why do we see objects...	True or False A shadow is formed when a transparent object blocks light.	