

Light: colour and the spectrum

energy-forces

What you need: dark card (A5 or similar) · pale or white card (A5 or similar) · warm desk lamp (incandescent or halogen) or access to a sunny windowsill · glass prism · torch · white card for catching the spectrum · card or paper-plate colour wheel (spectrum segments already coloured in) · pencil or split pin for spinning the wheel · shallow water tray and small mirror (if no prism) · coloured filters or coloured cellophane (optional extension only)

Words to use

Light energy · Spectrum · White light

Our question

Does a dark surface warm up more than a pale surface under the same light?

I predict...because...

What we found out

Which card felt warmer, or did they feel about the same?

What does that suggest light can do, besides help us see?

