Lesson 21

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…

Draw or list the spectrum colours you saw

What did the spinning colour wheel look like when it went fast?

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?