**Glossary**

**Concave** Dished inwards. A concave mirror curves away from the viewer like the inside of a bowl. A concave lens is thinner in the middle than around the edges.

**Convex** Bulging outwards. A convex mirror curves towards the viewer like the outside of a bowl. A convex lens is thicker in the middle than around the edges.

**Eyepiece lens** The lens of a camera, telescope, microscope, or pair of binoculars, which the eye looks through.

**Gnomon** The upright part of a sundial, which casts the shadow.

**Laser light** A special form of light where the waves are all the same length, in step, and parallel to each other.

**Objective lens** The lens of a camera, telescope, microscope, or pair of binoculars, which takes in light from the surroundings.

**Pigments** Substances that soak up some waves of light but reflect others, to give strong colours used in paints, dyes, inks, and stains.

**Primary colours** Three main colours which can combine to form all other colours. When light is added, like in a television, they are red, green, and blue. When light is subtracted, like in paint pigments, they are yellow, magenta, and cyan.

**Reflection** When light bounces back off an object or substance, rather than being absorbed (soaked up).

**Refraction** When light bends or alters its angle, as it passes from one transparent substance to another.

**Retina** The light-detecting layer inside the eyeball.

**Speed of light** The speed at which light travels. It is about 300,000 kilometres per second. It is the highest speed that anything in the universe can travel at.

**Transparent** Clear or see-through, allowing light to pass through.

**Visible spectrum** The range of colours of light, due to light having different wavelengths. The colours vary from red, which has the longest wavelength, to violet, which has the shortest wavelength.