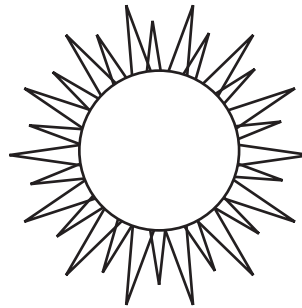


# Sources of Light

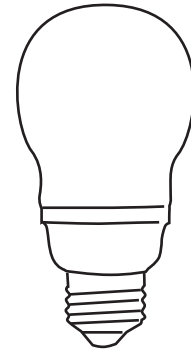
Where does light come from?

Light comes from two sources.

One source is natural light. This means that the light comes from nature. Light from the Sun is natural because the Sun makes its own light.



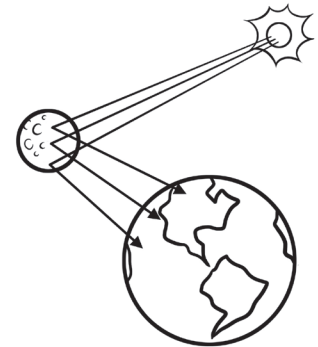
natural light



artificial light

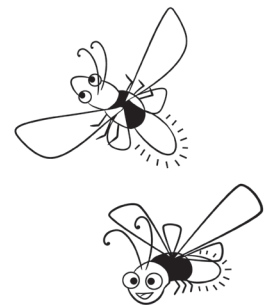
The other source of light is artificial. This means that the light is made by people. Lightbulbs are artificial because people made them.

Most light sources give off their own light. Our Sun and other stars make their own light. Candles and lightbulbs also make their own light. But what about the Moon? We can see light from the Moon, but it does not make light because it is not a star. The light we see from the Moon is reflected sunlight. Reflected light is important in other ways. Reflectors on a bicycle bounce light from car headlights so drivers can see the bicycle.



## Unusual Sources of Natural Light

Many animals and plants can make their own light. This is called bioluminescence (buy-oh-loo-muh-NESS-ens). You may have seen a firefly at night. Fireflies produce light at the ends of their bodies. They flash the light to communicate with other fireflies. Some mushrooms can make their own light. If you walk in the forest in the dark, you may see some. Most of the animals that make light live in the oceans and seas. One example is the Anglerfish. This fish has a long, thin fin that grows out of the top of its head. The tip of the fin gives off light to attract prey.



## Light Is Important

Both natural and artificial light are very important. Light from the Sun is needed for plants to grow. This light also helps keep animals and people healthy. Most things people do require light. We do many activities during daylight. We can also do many things at night because of artificial light. Think about how different your life would be if we only had light from the Sun.