

# “WAVE” STUDY GUIDE



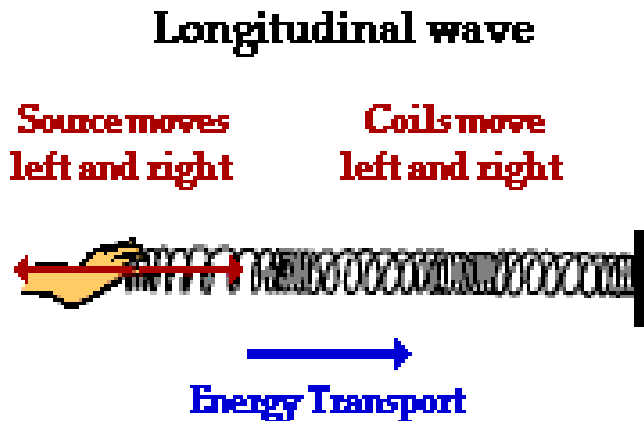
FOR: MRS. GROM'S SCIENCE CLASS

 BY: MRS. CAMUTO

# THE TWO TYPES OF WAVES!

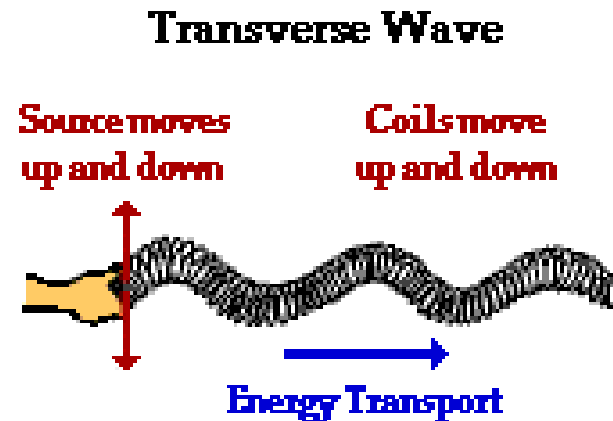
## • LONGITUDINAL

- 1.) COMPRESSIONS – (close together)  
Represented by the coils of the spring being CROWDED TOGETHER.
- 2.) RAREFACTION – (far apart)  
Represented by the coils of the spring that are SPACED APART.



## TRANSVERSE

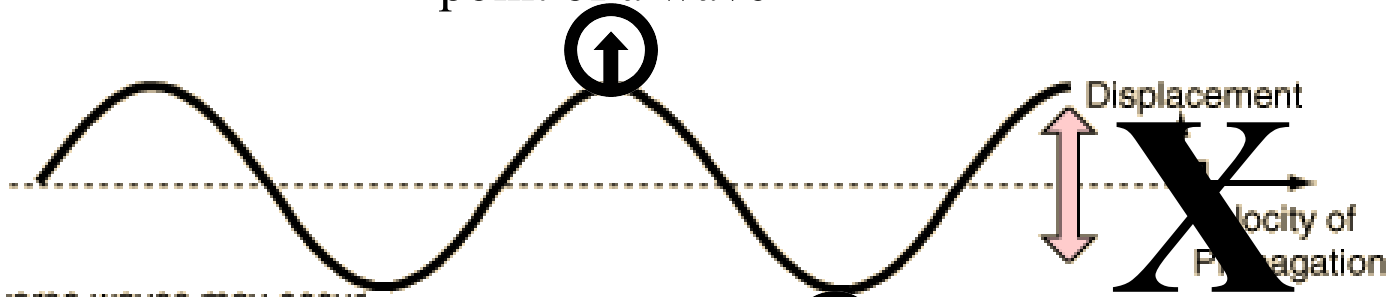
- 1.) CREST - (highest point)  
Represented by the coils of the spring where there is a MAXIMUM DISPLACEMENT UPWARD of the particles.
- 2.) TROUGH – (lowest point)  
Represented by the coils of the spring where there is a MAXIMUM DISPLACEMENT DOWNWARD of the particles.



**The subsequent direction of motion of individual particles of a medium is the same as the direction of vibration of the source of the disturbance.**

# TRANSVERSE WAVES

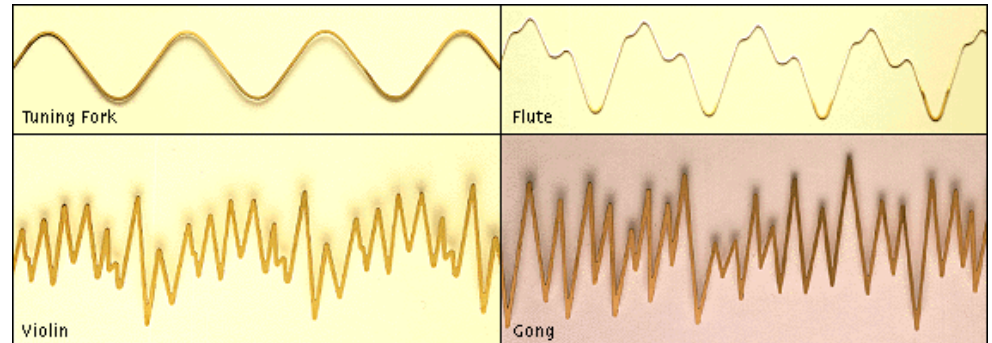
CREST - highest point of a wave



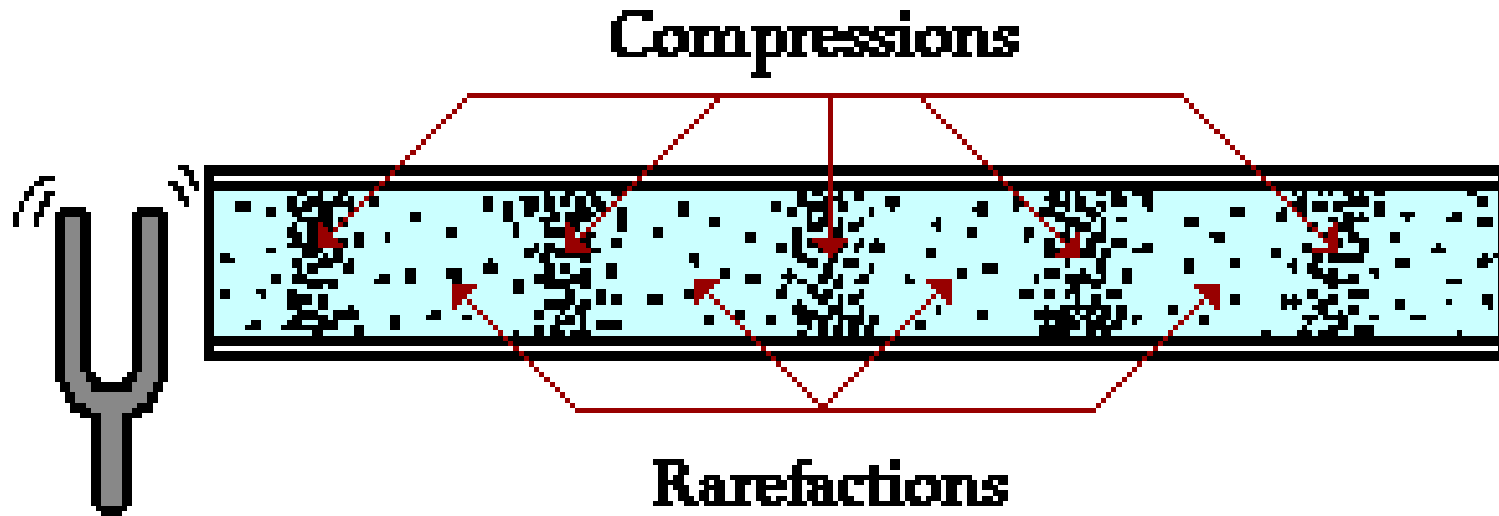
Transverse waves may occur on a string, on the surface of a liquid, and throughout a solid.

TROUGH - lowest point of a wave

In this type of wave, the **MOTION of the WAVE** and the **DIRECTION of the wave** are at **RIGHT ANGLES**.

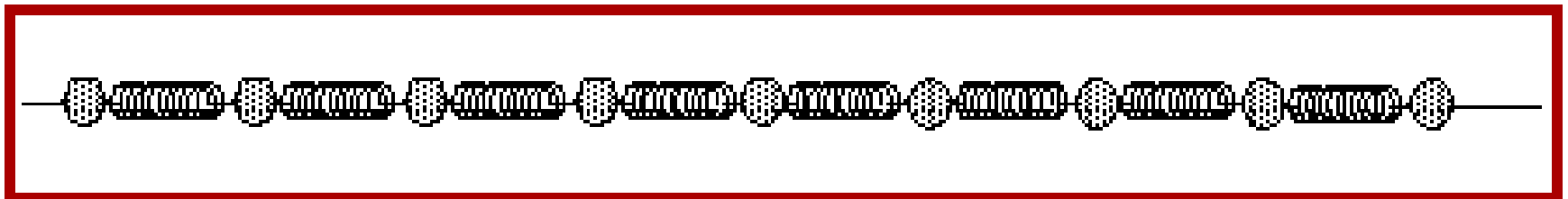


# PARTS OF THE LONGITUDINAL WAVE



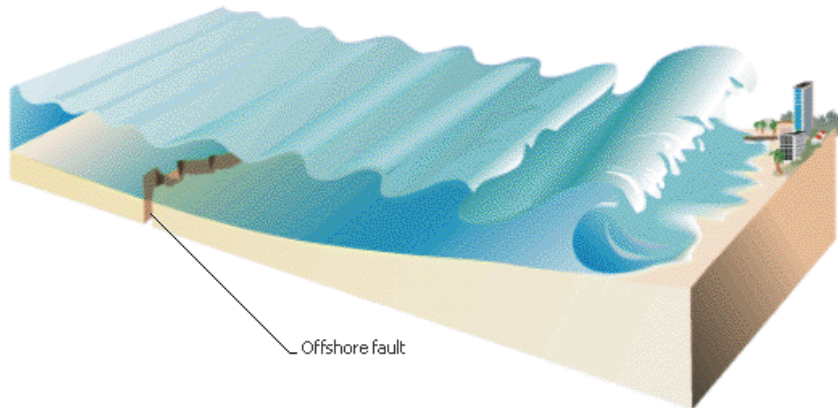
**COMPRESSIONS** – part of the wave where the particles are CLOSE (crowded) together.

**RAREFRACTIONS** – part of the wave where the particles are SPACED APART.



# WHAT IS A WAVE?

Waves CAN BE  
transmitted through ALL  
PHASES OF MATTER  
(solid, liquid and gas)

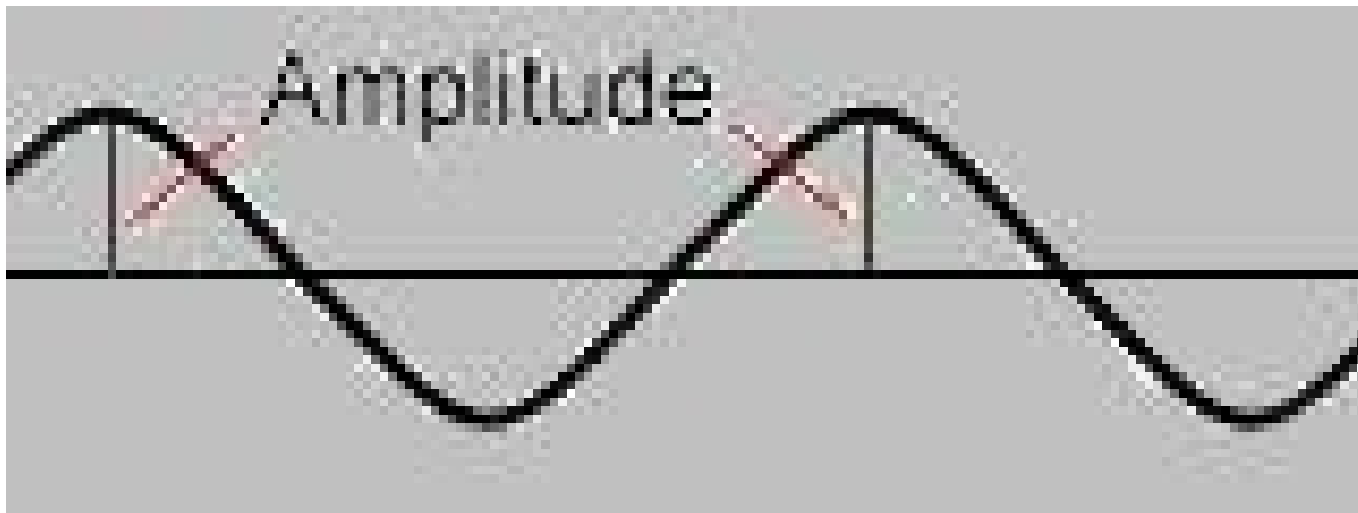


- A wave is - ANY DISTURBANCE that causes energy to travel from place to place. In other words, **ALL WAVES TRANSFER ENERGY THROUGH A MEDIUM.**
- WAVES are created when a **SOURCE OF ENERGY** causes a **MEDIUM** to **VIBRATE.**
- All waves, however, share certain basic characteristics:
  - **ALL WAVES HAVE:**
    - 1.) amplitude**
    - 2.) wavelength**
    - 3.) frequency..**

# AMPLITUDE

## Amplitude

- The maximum distance the medium (the material through which a wave travels) moves away from its rest position. The higher the wave moves up-and-down as it vibrates, the larger the amplitude of the resulting waves.
- In simple terms,
  - **AMPLITUDE IS THE HEIGHT OF THE WAVE!**
- **Waves with high energy have a LARGE amplitude.**
- **Waves with low energy have a SMALL amplitude.**



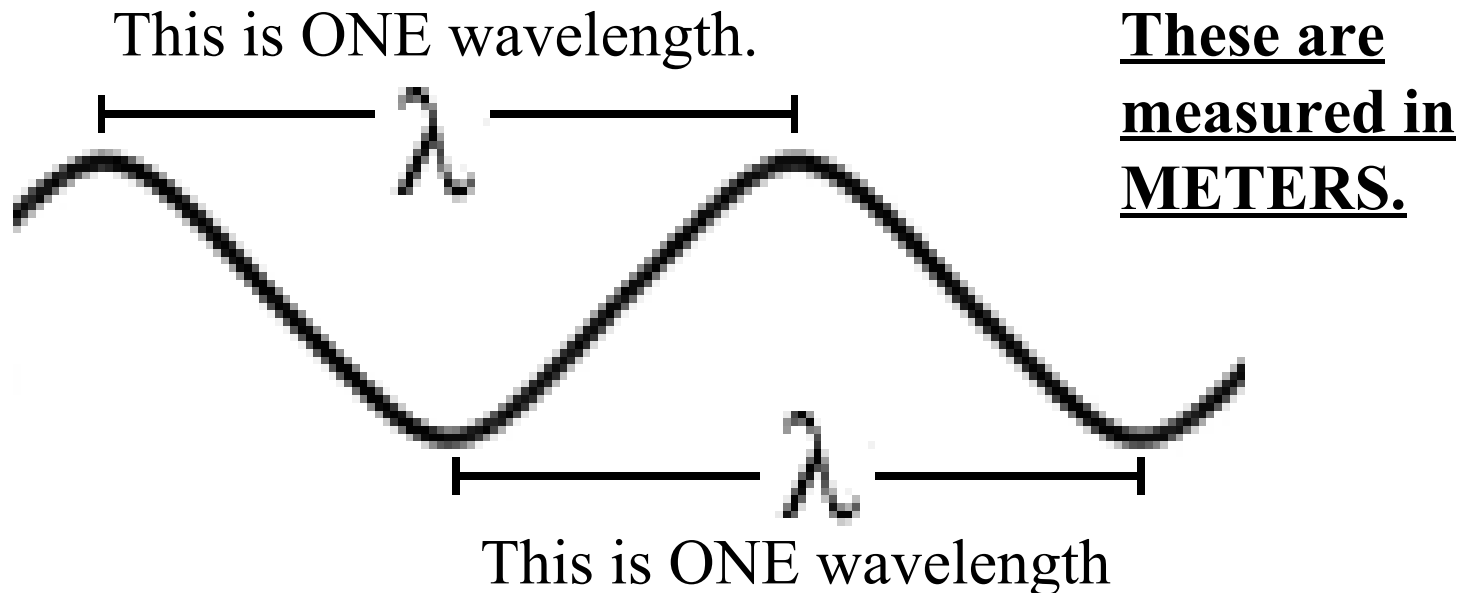
# WAVELENGTH!

## WAVELENGTH –

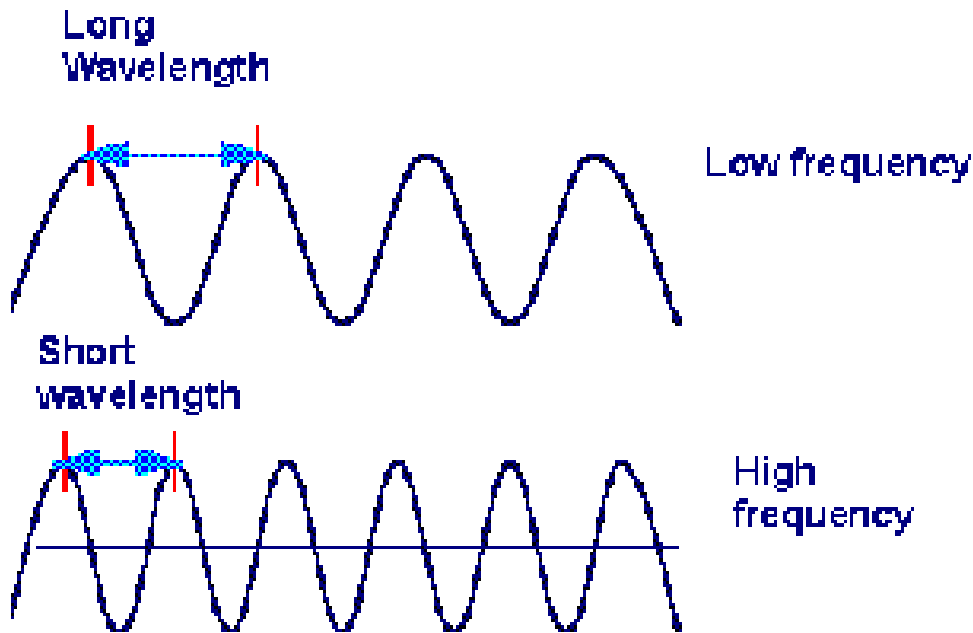
The distance between two consecutive (one after another) SIMILAR points on a wave; in other words,

\*\*\*a measurement from one **crest** or **trough** to the next on a wave is called the wavelength.

The wavelength can be measured from any point on a wave as long as it is measured to the same point on the next wave.



# FREQUENCY



## FREQUENCY -

**the number of complete waves, or complete cycles, per unit of time**

Because every complete wave has one crest and one trough, you can think of the frequency as the number of crests or troughs produced per unit time.

**The unit used to measure wave frequency is called the hertz (Hz).**

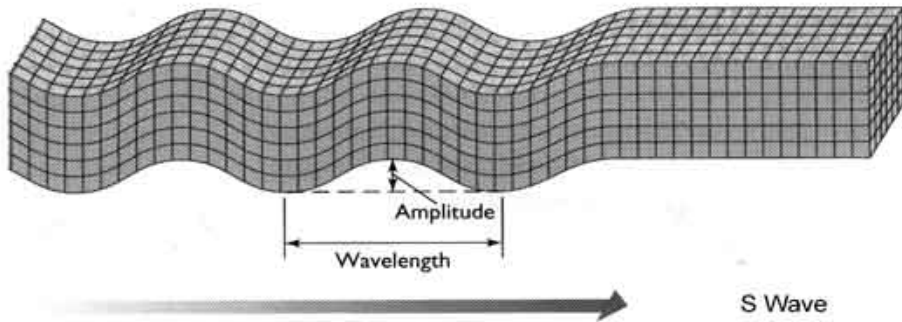
**HERTZ is the SAME as  
ONE WAVE PER SECOND!**



# WAVES NEED A MEDIUM!



Remember: this medium will NOT move as a whole as the ENERGY is transmitted through it.

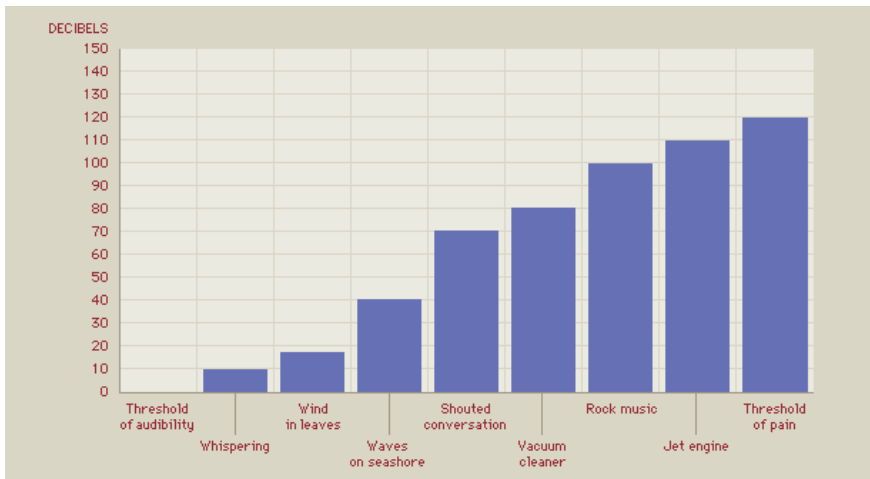


- **MEDIUM** –
- the material through which a wave travels through –
- This includes **ALL phases of MATTER.**
- **TYPES OF MEDIUMS** –
  - LAND
  - WATER
  - AIR

# SOUND WAVES

- A sound wave is different than a light wave in that a **sound wave is not capable of traveling through a vacuum.** (in other words, **SOUND** cannot travel through outer space.)

**\*\*\*\*SOUND WAVES become PAINFUL at 120 decibels.**



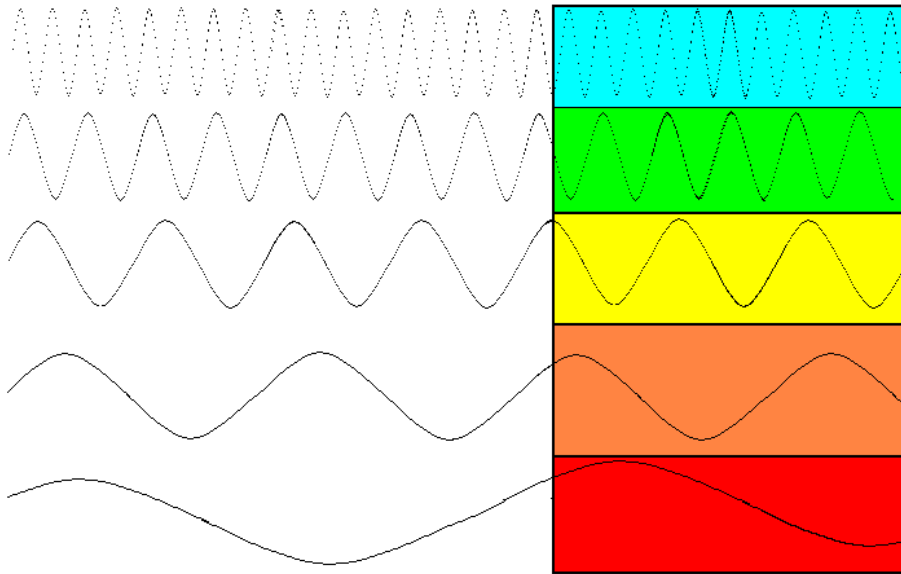
**Sound is a Mechanical Wave**

**MECHANICAL WAVES**

MUST have a MEDIUM to travel / pass through.

# ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES

The blue wave is higher in frequency ( or pitch ) and has a shorter wavelength.



The red wave is lower in frequency ( or pitch ) and has a longer wavelength.

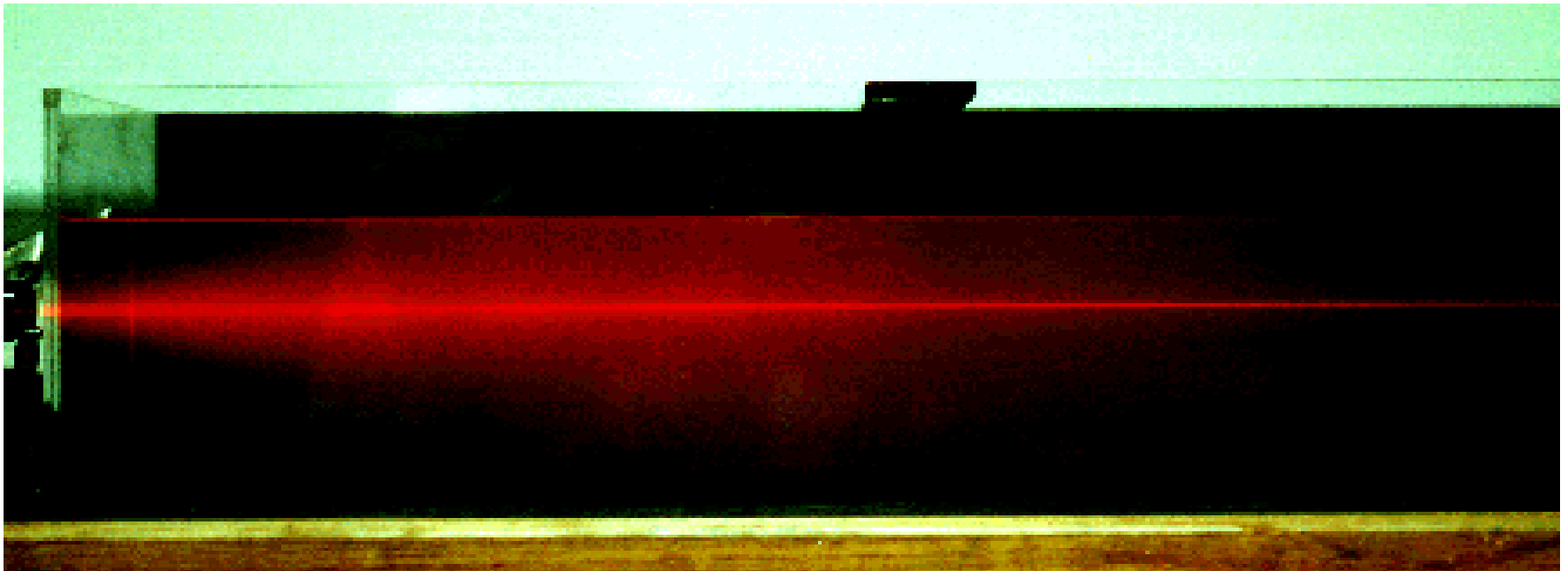
- An **electromagnetic wave** is a wave which is capable of transmitting its energy through a vacuum (i.e., empty space).
- **All light waves** are examples of electromagnetic waves.
- LIGHT can travel through outer space!

# LIGHT WAVES

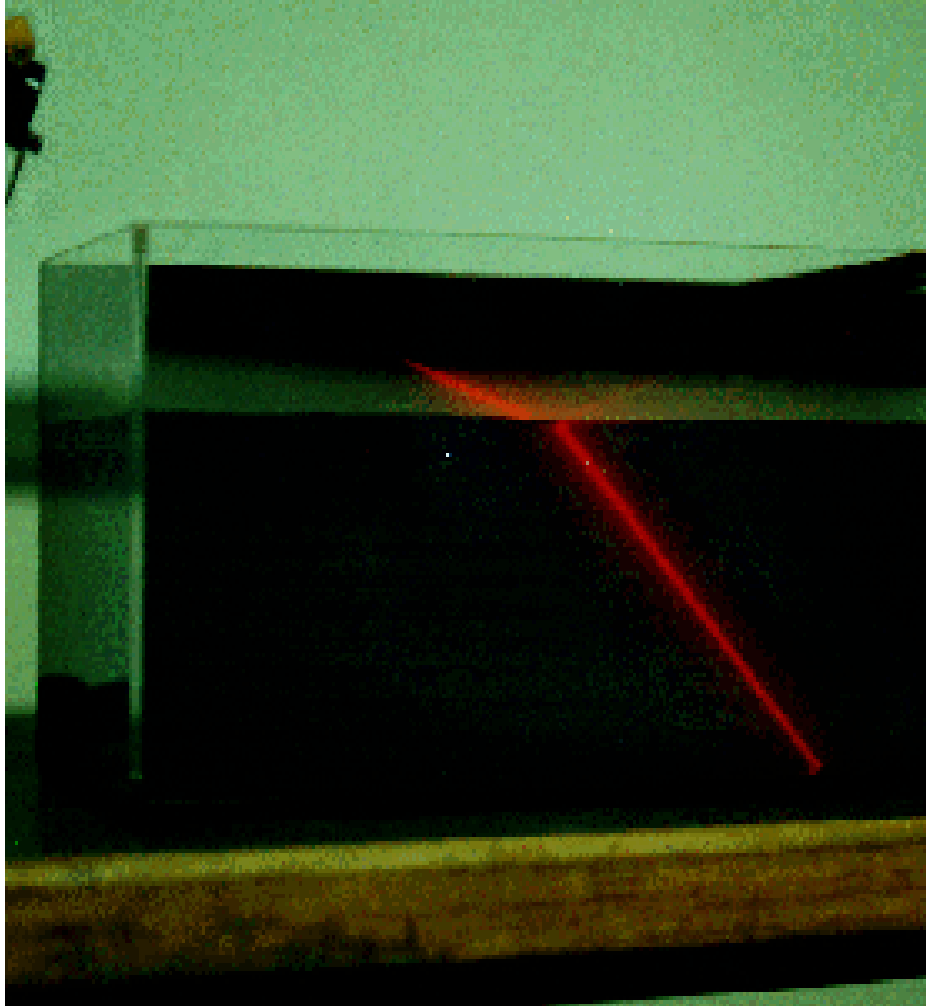
Light waves can pass through many media: air, water, glass, to name a few.

Light waves **do not need any medium** to travel.

Sunlight, moonlight, and starlight pass through the vacuum of outer space to reach us.

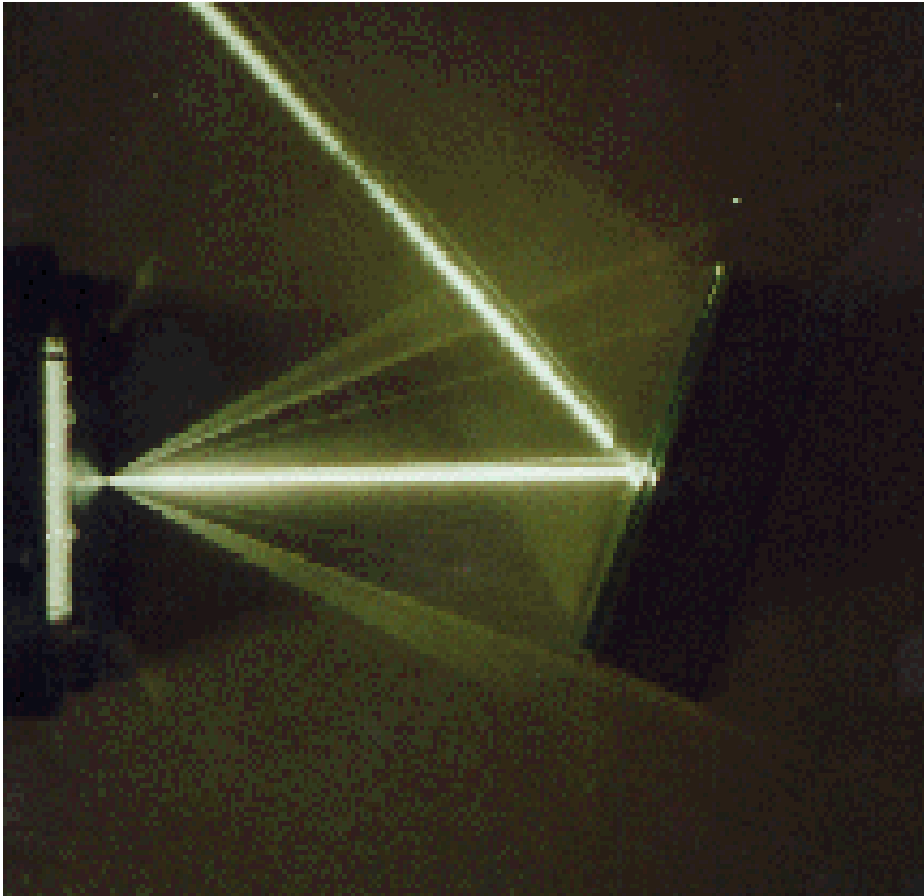


# REFRACTION



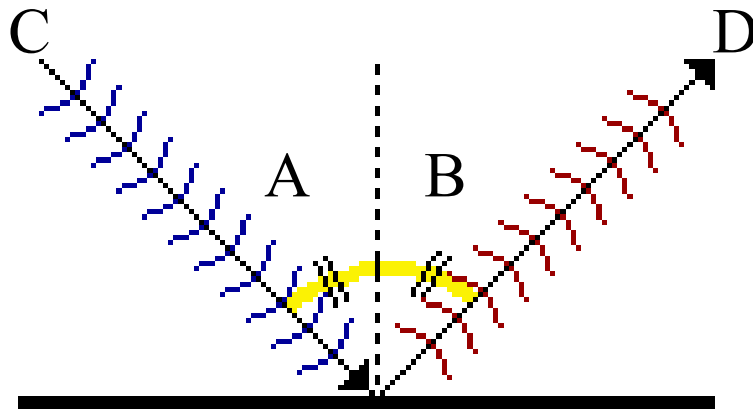
- Refraction occurs when light passes into a transparent material.
- An example of this is when a PENCIL SEEMS TO BEND when you place it in a glass of water!

# REFLECTION



- Reflection occurs when light bounces off an opaque material.
- **IN OTHER WORDS –**  
The wave STRIKES the boundary and bounces back!

# LAW OF REFLECTION



**Light waves follow the  
"law of wave reflection."**

When a WAVE strikes a barrier,  
it can be ABSORBED or  
REFLECTED.

- In this law the  
ANGLE OF INCIDENCE is  
EQUAL TO the  
ANGLE OF REFLECTION.

C = the INCIDENT WAVE

A = the ANGLE OF INCIDENT

B = the ANGLE OF REFLECTION

D = the REFLECTED WAVE