



What Causes Day and Night?

Day slowly changes to night and back again on a regular basis. What causes this repeating change? In this activity, you will model how the sun and Earth interact to produce these changes.

INQUIRY FOCUS Make Models

Procedure

1.  Place the lamp on a table and plug it in. Put a globe on the table about 1 m from the lamp.
2. Turn on the lamp and darken the room. Observe which parts of the globe have light shining on them and which parts are unlit.
3. Now find your location on the globe. Completely turn the globe once. Notice when it is lit at your location and when it is dark.

Materials

lamp without a shade
40-watt (or smaller)
light bulb
globe
meter stick

Think It Over

- 1 What do the lamp and globe represent in this model?

- 2 What does one complete turn of the globe represent?

- 3 Describe what happened as you turned the globe.

- 4 How could you use the lamp and globe to represent one year?

