

LEARNING HOW LIGHT WORKS



What is a LASER?



NAME _____

TEACHER'S NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

What is a Laser?

Each activity will be followed by a group discussion.

Warm up: Acronyms

How many acronyms can you list and what do they mean?

Activity 1: Measuring the size of laser and flashlight beams

	1 meter from the wall	2 meters from the wall
Diameter of the laser spot		
Diameter of the flashlight spot		

How much did the laser diameter increase? _____

How much did the flashlight diameter increase? _____

Which spread more, the laser or the flashlight?



Activity 2: Colors of flashlight and laser beams

Describe the colors you saw when you put each beam through the piece of CD or diffraction grating.

light source	colors
Flashlight	
Laser	

Activity 3: Laser speckle

Describe the two patches of light made by the laser and the flashlight. How were they similar? How were they different?

Conclusions

What are three ways laser light is different from ordinary light?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Why is it wrong to spell laser with a "z"?



