

# 04 Waves and Optics

Content Area: **Science**  
Course(s): **Physics H**  
Time Period: **Semester 2**  
Length: **10 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Standards

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SCI.HS.PS3.D	Energy in Chemical Processes
SCI.HS.PS4.A	Wave Properties
SCI.HS.PS4.B	Electromagnetic Radiation
SCI.HS.PS4.C	Information Technologies and Instrumentation
SCI.HS-PS4-1	Use mathematical representations to support a claim regarding relationships among the frequency, wavelength, and speed of waves traveling in various media.
SCI.HS-PS4-2	Evaluate questions about the advantages of using a digital transmission and storage of information.
SCI.HS-PS4-5	Communicate technical information about how some technological devices use the principles of wave behavior and wave interactions with matter to transmit and capture information and energy.
	Asking Questions and Defining Problems
	Cause and Effect
	Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information
	Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking
	Stability and Change

## Enduring Understandings

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1. The wavelength and frequency of a wave are related to one another by the speed of travel of the wave, which depends on the type of wave and the medium through which it is passing. The reflection, refraction, and transmission of waves at an interface between two media can be modeled on the basis of these properties. Combining waves of different frequencies can make a wide variety of patterns and thereby encode and transmit information. Information can be digitized. (e.g., a picture stored as the values of an array of pixels); in this form, it can be stored reliably in computer memory and sent over long distances as a series of wave pulses.
2. Resonance is a phenomenon in which waves add up in phase in a structure, growing in amplitude due to energy input near the natural vibration frequency. Structures have particular frequencies at which they resonate. This phenomenon (e.g., waves in a stretched string, vibrating air in a pipe) is used in speech and in the design of all musical instruments.
3. Electromagnetic radiation (e.g., radio, microwaves, light) can be modeled as a wave of changing electric and magnetic fields or as particles called photons.
4. The wave model is useful for explaining many features of electromagnetic radiation, and the particle model explains other features. Quantum theory relates the two models. (Boundary: Quantum theory is not explained further at this grade level.)

5. Because a wave is not much disturbed by objects that are small compared with its wavelength, visible light cannot be used to see such objects as individual atoms.
6. All electromagnetic radiation travels through a vacuum at the same speed, called the speed of light. Its speed in any other given medium depends on its wavelength and the properties of that medium.
7. When light or longer wavelength electromagnetic radiation is absorbed in matter, it is generally converted into thermal energy (heat). Shorter wavelength electromagnetic radiation (ultraviolet, X-rays, gamma rays) can ionize atoms and cause damage to living cells.
8. Multiple technologies based on the understanding of waves and their interactions with matter are part of everyday experiences in the modern world (e.g., medical imaging, communications, scanners) and in scientific research. They are essential tools for producing, transmitting, and capturing signals and for storing and interpreting the information contained in them.
9. Knowledge of quantum physics enabled the development of semiconductors, computer chips, and lasers, all of which are now essential components of modern imaging, communications, and information technologies. (Boundary: Details of quantum physics are not formally taught at this grade level.)

## **Essential Questions**

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1. How are waves used to transfer energy and information?
2. What are the characteristic properties and behaviors of waves?
3. How are instruments that transmit and detect waves used to extend human senses?
4. What is light?
5. How can one explain the varied effects that involve light?

## **Knowledge and Skills**

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### Knowledge:

1. Students will know that the wavelength and frequency of a wave are related to one another by the speed of travel of the wave, which depends on the type of wave and the medium through which it is passing. (DCI PS4.A Wave Properties)
2. Students will know that information can be digitized (e.g. in a picture stored as the values of an array of pixels); in this form, it can be stored reliably in computer memory and sent over long distances as a series of wave pulses. (DCI PS4.A Wave Properties)
3. Students will know that photoelectric materials emit electrons when they absorb light of a high enough frequency.

4. Students will know that multiple technologies based on the understanding of waves and their interactions with matter are part of everyday experiences in the modern world (e.g. medical imaging, communications, scanners) and in scientific research. They are essential tools for producing, transmitting, and capturing signals and for storing and interpreting the information contained in them.

Skills :

1. Use mathematical representations to support a claim regarding relationships among the frequency, wavelength, and speed of waves traveling in various media.
2. Evaluate questions about the advantages of using a digital transmission and storage of information.
3. Communicate technical information about how some technological devices use the principles of wave behavior and wave interactions with matter to transmit and capture information and energy.

## **Transfer Goals**

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Mechanism and explanation. Events have causes, sometimes simple, sometimes multifaceted. A major activity of science is investigating and explaining causal relationships and the mechanisms by which they are mediated. Such mechanisms can then be tested across given contexts and used to predict and explain events in new contexts.

For natural and built systems alike, conditions of stability and determinants of rates of change or evolution of a system are critical elements of study.

## **Resources**

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Core Resource: Physics, Cutnell & Johnson (10th edition)

Supplemental Resources:

- Physics Union Mathematics (PUM), Rutgers University
- Physics Active Learning Guide, Pearson
- Phet Simulations
  - [Waves Intro](#)

- [Waves on A String](#)
- [Wave Interference](#)
- [Bending Light](#)
- [Geometric Optics](#)
  
- PIVOT Interactives
  
- The Physics Classroom
  
- Web Assign
  
- [The Universe and More Interactive Physics Resources](#)

## **Assessments**

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[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wR7bQF-8AQoRrt0g4C3hKja0yjwDjC9\\_BiAmONWbTcl/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wR7bQF-8AQoRrt0g4C3hKja0yjwDjC9_BiAmONWbTcl/edit?usp=sharing)

## **Modifications**

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<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ODqaPP69YkcFiyG72fit8XsUIe3K1VSG7nxuc4CpCec/edit?usp=sharing>