

Tamara and Josiah were first grade students in Mrs. Swenson's class. They had been learning about light with their teacher during science, and after weeks of careful observations and investigations, they came to the agreement that they needed light to see. If there was no light in a room then they wouldn't be able to see anything, but if there was even just a little bit of light, they'd be able to see something in the room. The more light that was present, the better chance they'd have at seeing more things.

Tamara and Josiah also knew that when there was light present, different objects would respond to light in different ways. Some objects let light go through them. Other materials sort of let light go through them and they saw some light behind the materials. But the most interesting materials were the ones that didn't let light through them at all. They blocked all of the light!

Mrs. Swenson had always let the students test their ideas using light from the sun that entered their classroom through the windows or from the flashlights that she had kept stored in her cabinets. These objects, she told the class, were known as "light sources." Light sources were objects that give off their own light, allowing us to see. Light sources could be objects found in nature that people didn't make. These include objects like the sun. Or, they could be artificial, or human-made, like a flashlight.

Mrs. Swenson encouraged her students to come up with a list of other light sources that they could think of. She'd then allow students to bring light sources into school that the class decided were safe enough to use inside their classroom so they could redo some of their investigations with light sources other than flashlights and the sun. Tamara and Josiah were up for the challenge!