

Vocabulary



concave lens a lens that is thinner in the middle and thicker at the edges; bends light outward

Concave lenses make objects appear smaller.

convex lens a lens that is thicker in the middle and thinner at the edges; bends light inward

Convex lenses make objects appear larger.

focal point the point where the image formed by a lens or mirror is turned upside-down

The focal point of a convex lens is usually found a few centimeters from the lens. Objects in front of the focal point appear right-side up and larger than they really are. Objects just beyond the focal point appear larger and upside-down. Objects way beyond the focal point appear smaller and upside-down.

refraction the bending of light when it moves from one material to another

Light travels at different speeds through different materials. When light moves from one material to another, its speed changes. At the boundary between the two materials, the path of light will bend. The light rays still travel in straight lines, but the path changes direction slightly.