



A description of light

This activity should be done with the use of the simulation « [Waves Intro](https://phet.colorado.edu/sims/html/waves-intro/latest/waves-intro_en.html) »
https://phet.colorado.edu/sims/html/waves-intro/latest/waves-intro_en.html

Waves

- Click on the « water » tab
- Position in side view
- Select pulse mode (a single disturbance)
- Select maximum amplitude
- Open the valve by pressing the green button.



A wave is defined as the propagation of a disturbance between 2 points.

1. **PROPOSE** a definition of the term “disturbance”.
2. **Take a screenshot of a disturbanc, and show WHAT YOU THINK** is the wavefront on this screenshot.

Periodic waves

- Remain on the “water” tab, still in side view
 - Select periodic mode (a succession of disturbances)
 - Select maximum amplitude
 - Select an intermediate frequency
 - Open the valve by pressing the green button.
3. **PROPOSE** a definition of the time period of a periodic wave.

The frequency of a wave is defined as the number of disturbances per second. It is measured in hertz (Hz).

4. **PROPOSE** a mathematical formula relating frequency f and time period T (en s).
5. **Derive** a unit equivalent to Hz.

The wavelength λ of a wave is defined as the distance travelled by the disturbance in one time period. It is measured in meters.

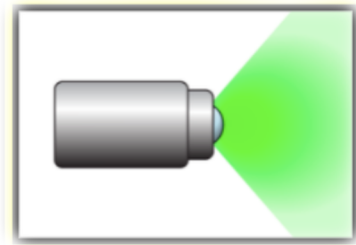
6. **Take a screenshot showing WHAT YOU THINK** is a wavelength.
7. **PROPOSE** a mathematical formula relating wavelength and time period.
8. **Derive** a mathematical formula relating wavelength and frequency.

- Click on the « light » tab
9. **HIGHLIGHT** an information that might indicate that color and frequency are linked
 10. **PROPOSE** and implement an experiment demonstrating that color affects the wavelength of light



Measuring the celerity of light

- Remain on the « light » tab.



11. Using the tools provided on the simulation, PROPOSE and implement an experiment to determine an approximate value for the celerity of light.

Note: *celerity* \equiv *speed of propagation*.