

The Light Makes a Difference

Light can change your photos. You can learn about light by taking pictures at different times of the day. Be sure your camera's flash is turned off.

Project Area **2**

Lighting

Learner Outcomes

Photography Skill:

Taking pictures using natural light—daylight, night time, and indoor light

Life Skill:

Acquiring and evaluating information—Obtains information

Educational Standard:

NA-VA.K-4.1—Understanding and Applying Media, Techniques, and Processes

Success Indicator:

Uses different natural light settings to experience the difference the light can make in creating a photograph

Sunrise. The light is soft. The sun shines from the east (right). Shadows wrap around the left sides of the buildings.

Noon. The light is much harder. The sun is higher in the sky. Shadows point almost straight down.

Just before sunset. The light is yellowish, softer than at noon but not as soft as in the morning. The light is always different. Time, seasons, and the weather change it every day.

Photo Shoot

1. Choose one scene. Set your camera on a post, a tripod, or a parked car. Take the same picture at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., and 8 p.m.
2. Do the same thing with a scene indoors near a bright window. See what happens as the light changes.

Tip

Is the focus on your camera automatic, adjustable, or fixed? You can make sharper pictures if you know. Read your manual.

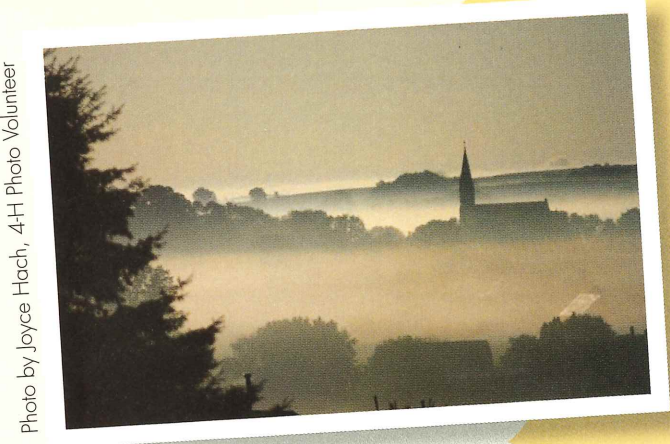


Photo by Joyce Hoch, 4-H Photo Volunteer

Different light can change the mood of the picture. Study this photo. What time of day was it taken?

You need light to take a photo. In fact, the word "photography" means "drawing with light."

Many different types of light can be used for to take photos. "Natural light" refers to light from the sun. It can be found outdoors and indoors. "Artificial light" refers to all other light sources, including lamps and camera flashes.

Most of the pictures you take outdoors are lit by natural light. The quality of light from the sun changes all day. In the morning and evening, the sun is softer and more yellow than at noon or midday. And because it is low in the sky, the shadows formed by the morning and evening sun are long. The sides of objects are usually shaded, too.

The midday sun is harsh and forms short shadows. This light quality is good for bringing out details in your photos, but it is not very good for taking portraits.

Clouds also affect light quality. A cloudy day gives light a very soft quality and is very flattering for taking pictures of people. Shadows are also much softer.

Lighting can make the difference between a good photo and a better one. The more you take pictures under different lighting conditions, the more you'll learn about light.

More Challenges

- Lighting conditions change with the weather. Shoot the same scene on a sunny day, a cloudy day, and a foggy morning. Compare the results.
- Keep a notebook about your photography. Write down information about how you took your photos and things you want to know more about. Keep track of your expenses.



Fast Facts www.4-HPhotography.org

Pre-Focusing or Focus Lock