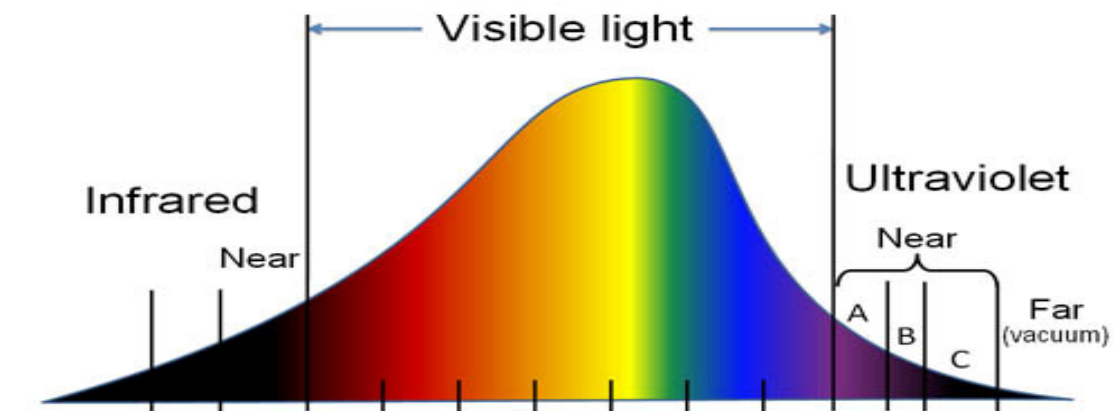


Cannizaro Science Quiz

Most of us know that the leaves of plants and trees are green because they contain a pigment called Chlorophyll which absorbs energy from sunlight, water from the earth and carbon dioxide from the air to produce oxygen and the carbohydrates that plants need to for growth.

We see leaves as green because Chlorophyll does not absorb green light – it reflects it.

This diagram plots the energy in sunlight against colour. It shows that the energy from sunlight is highest in the yellow/green part of the spectrum.



Here are some questions:

1. If yellow/green is where the maximum energy is, why haven't plants evolved to absorb green light rather than reflect it?
2. What colours do plants absorb?
3. The best colour for absorbing heat is black because it reflects nothing and absorbs all the colours. Why aren't leaves black?



Compiled by The Womble