

Optics is the study of light. Some scientists, such as Robert Hooke and Christian Huygens, suggested that light is a wave, while Isaac Newton suggested that light consists of particles, or particles as he called them. Perhaps the best way to think about it is that waves and particles are both simplistic models of reality, and light is a complex phenomenon that doesn't quite fit into either model. By the end of the seventeenth century, many of the familiar laws and relationships of optics had been stated. Both models are widely used. What is light?