**Vocabulary: Eyes & Vision 3 – Sensing Light**



**Vocabulary**

* Cone – A photoreceptor cell that responds to a certain color of light.
* Cones work best in bright conditions.
* Humans have three types of cones: red, green and blue.
* Some animals have cones that are sensitive to UV light.
* Fovea – a small indent on the back of the retina where most of the light is focused.
* In humans, the fovea contains mostly cone cells and very few rod cells.
* Rod cells are found in the retina around the fovea.
* Nerve impulse – a signal that passes along a nerve cell.
* When light hits a photoreceptor cell, a nerve impulse is triggered.
* Nocturnal – active at night.
* Nocturnal animals are awake at night and sleep during the day.
* Optic nerve – a bundle of nerve cells that carry signals from the retina to the brain.
* Photoreceptor – a sensory cell that is activated by light.
* Rods and cones are the two types of photoreceptors.
* Retina – a layer at the back of the eye that contains photoreceptor cells.
* Rod – a photoreceptor cell that is very sensitive to light.
* Animals rely on rods to see in low-light conditions.
* Because there is only one type of rod, they cannot be used to see in color.
* Ultraviolet light – light that has wavelengths shorter than violet light.
* While humans cannot see ultraviolet (UV) light, many animals can.