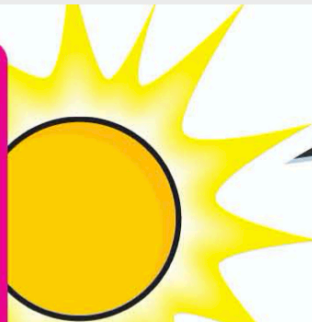


Light is something we all take for granted. We flick a switch and a light comes on. But it hasn't always been that easy. Come with me as I journey back through time and enlighten you. Remember you have a big part to play in protecting our planet.



**Natural light -**  
it takes light 8 minutes to reach the earth from the sun. In 15 minutes our sun makes as much energy as we use in a whole year!



**400,000 BC**  
Man discovered fire, probably by accident.



**13,000 BC**  
The basic torch - a bundle of sticks tied together were the first portable lamp.



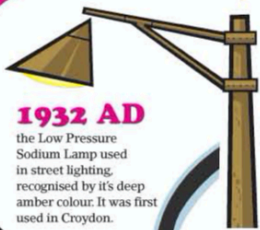
**400 AD**  
Expensive candles were made from beeswax and were used in churches. Ordinary people used cheaper ones, which was smelly and smoky.



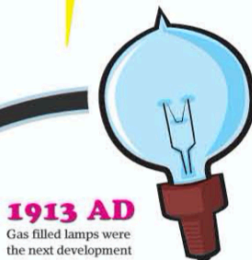
**1666 AD**  
Isaac Newton discovered that white light is made up from a spectrum of seven colours.



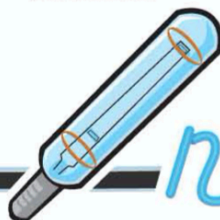
**1809 AD**  
Sir Humphrey Davy invented the Arc light.



**1932 AD**  
the Low Pressure Sodium Lamp used in street lighting, recognised by its deep amber colour. It was first used in Croydon.



**1913 AD**  
Gas filled lamps were the next development of the light bulb which gave a much brighter light.



**1901 AD**  
Mercury lamps developed as an alternative to the electric filament light bulb. Versions exist today - known as low energy light bulbs!

neon

**1898 AD**  
Neon was discovered in 1898 - when electricity is passed through neon gas, it glows bright red!



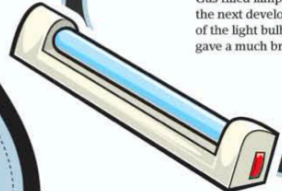
**1879 AD**  
Thomas Edison claimed he invented the light bulb but it was actually Joseph Swan. Edison bought Swan's idea.



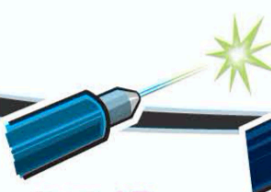
**1849 AD**  
How fast is the speed of light? A ray of light travels 8 times around the world in under a minute! Nothing is faster than the speed of light!



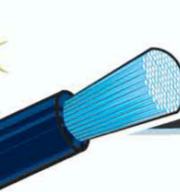
**1814 AD**  
London streets were lit by gas lights. Theatres also started using gas lighting.



**1937 AD**  
The fluorescent lamp was the early modern low energy lamp which are simply folded fluorescent tubes!



**1955 AD**  
Lasers are used for surgery, cutting metal, measuring distance, computer printing and many lighting applications.



**1955 AD**  
Fibre optics are used for things like broadband and telephone services.



**1983 AD**  
Low energy light bulbs can last up to 5 years, save a lot of money and are better for the environment. By 2014 this will be the only kind of light bulb you can buy.

**RecOlight**  
Making lamp recycling happen

**2005 AD**  
An organisation called Recolight was founded to promote and manage the recycling of the new low energy light bulbs.

**2010 AD**  
Sainsbury's have recycling receptacles at local stores for low energy light bulbs.

**Sainsbury's**



**BIG Light PROJECT**  
RecOlight Making lamp recycling happen