



Light rays

Light travels in straight lines. We call a narrow **BEAM** of light a light ray.

Have you ever wondered how we see anything at all? Our eyes are not like torches, sending out light so that we can see. It's the other way around. Our eyes receive light. If no light entered our eyes, the world would seem black.

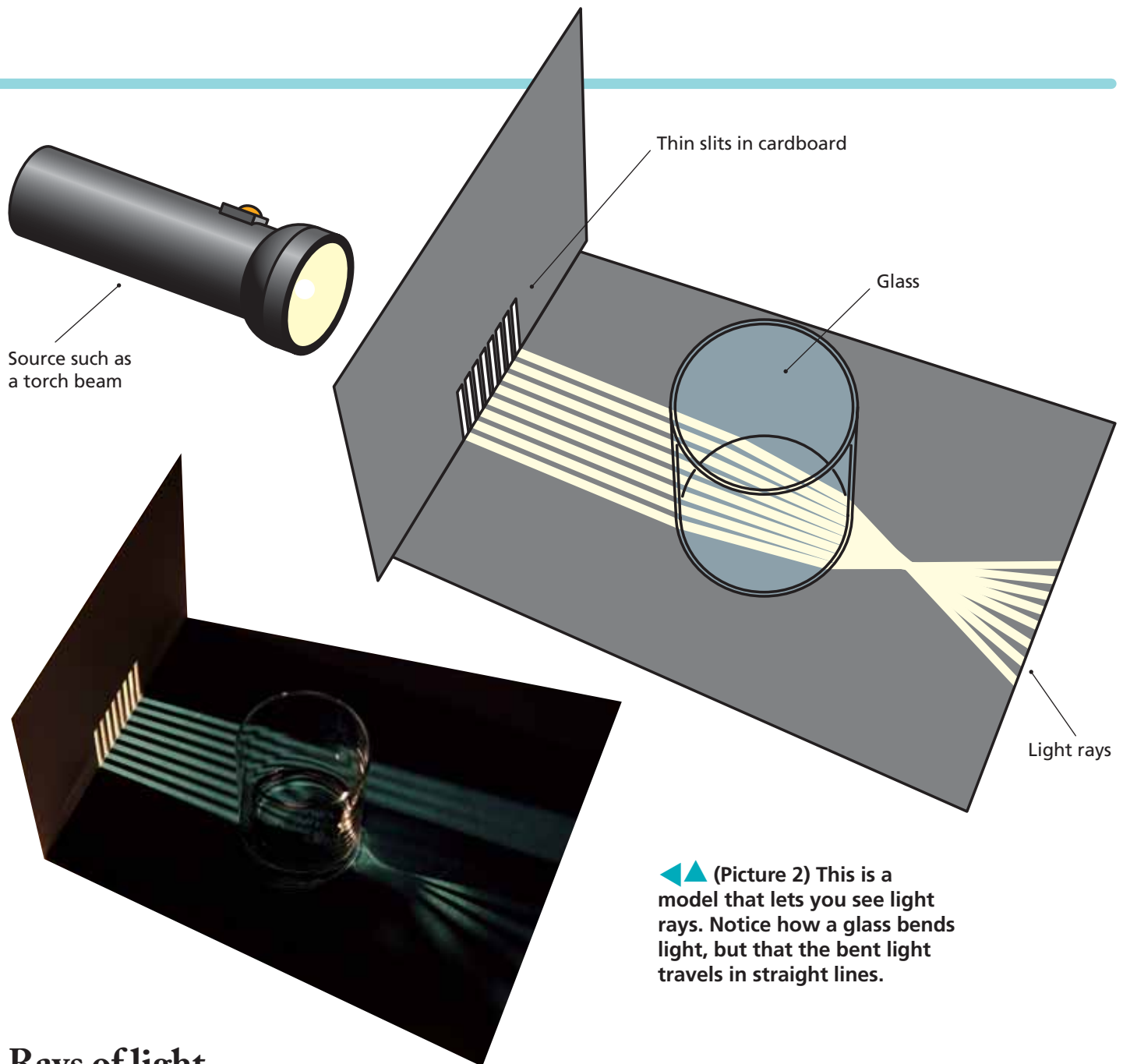
▼ (Picture 1) Here you can see that light travels in straight lines. Sunlight is travelling through a misty forest, which picks out the beams of light.

Sources of light

Anything that sends out light is called a **SOURCE OF LIGHT**. The Sun is the brightest natural source of light we have. Other natural sources include lightning, moonlight and the light given by stars.

We produce light for ourselves from many other sources. Lamps are our most common source of light, but we sometimes use fires, fireworks, oil lights, gas lights, **LASERS** and others.





Rays of light

Light always travels outwards in straight lines. Light doesn't curve. You can see this in nature when, for example, the Sun shines through a misty forest (Picture 1). But you can also show that light travels in straight lines by setting up a model like that shown in Picture 2.

In a darkened room, when light shines through a piece of cardboard with thin slits cut into it, you can see narrow shafts, or **RAYs** of light.

Put a glass, or some other object that lets light through, in the path of the rays. You will now see that the light rays bend, but, even when they are bent, the light still travels in straight lines.

Summary

- Light is produced by natural sources, like the Sun, or artificial ones such as lamps.
- Light always travels in straight lines.
- The path of a narrow beam of light is called a light ray.