



# Indoor lighting

We use many different sources of light for the times when it is dark.

The largest source of light is the Sun. But the Sun only shines during the day. Since ancient times, therefore, people have tried to make light for themselves so that they could see at night (Picture 1).

▼ (Picture 1) For thousands of years fire was the main source of light at night-time.



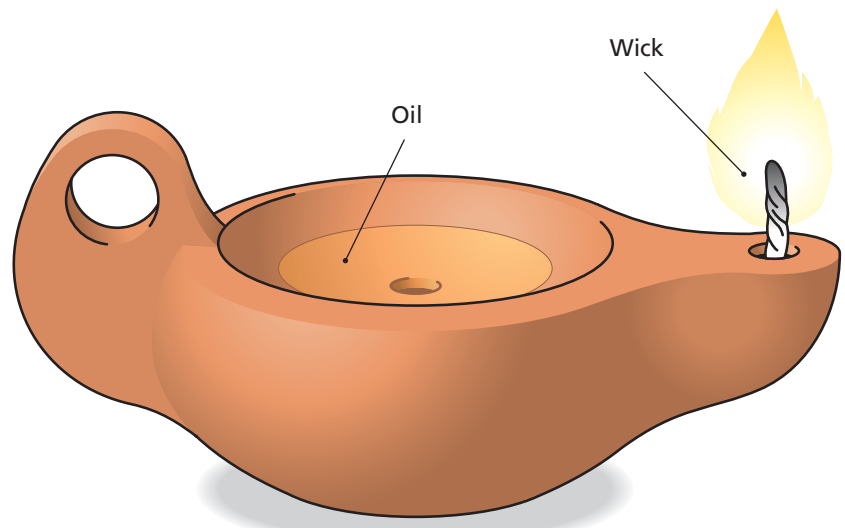
▼ (Picture 2) Candles were easier to use than oil lamps, but they still gave out weak light.

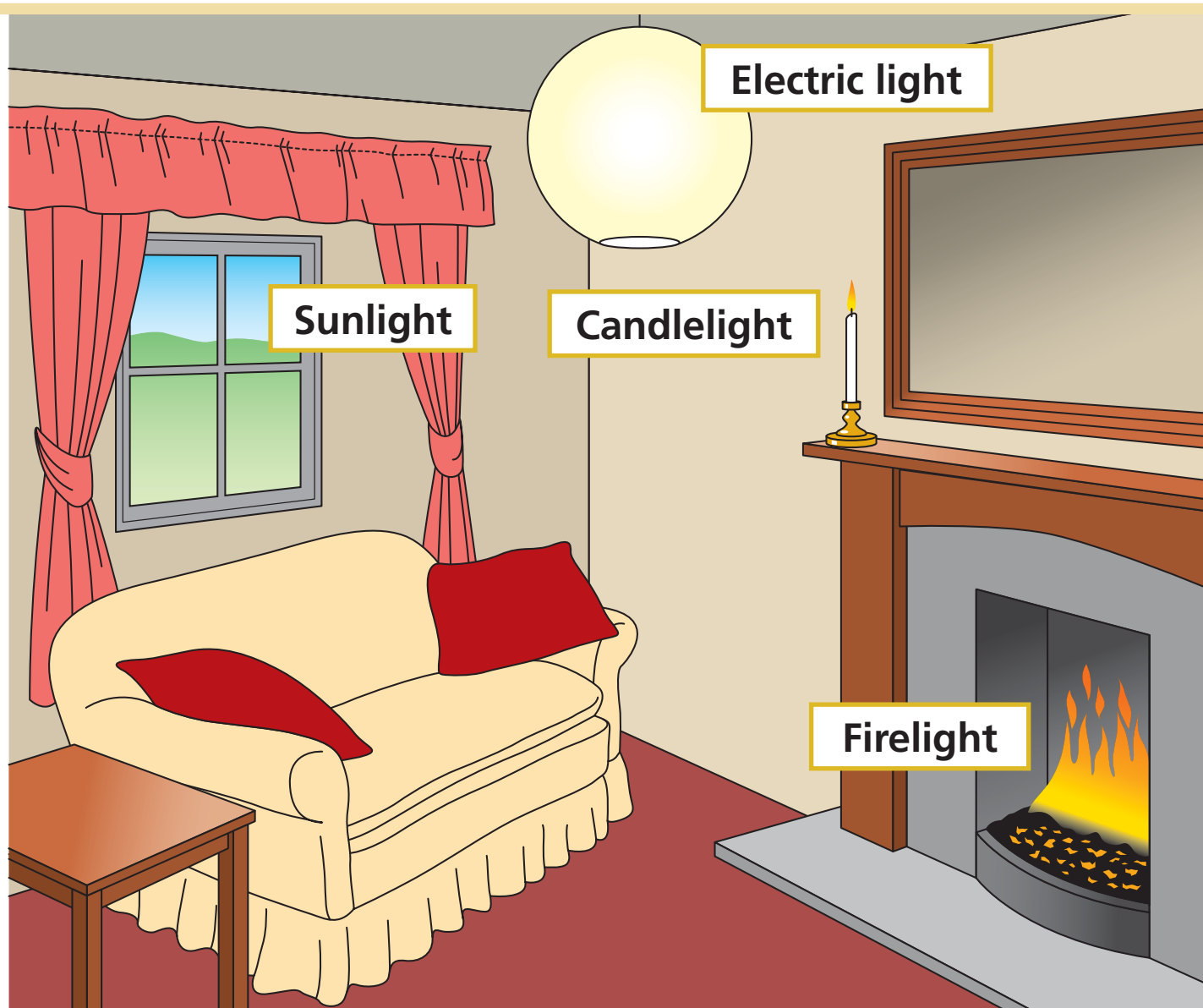


▼ (Picture 3) This is an oil lamp made from stone. A wick was placed in the oil in the bowl and then lit to provide light.

## Artificial light

The earliest kinds of light were made by people burning wood or dried grasses. They used open fires and also tied bundles of reeds together to make a 'torch'. Then oil lamps and, later, candles were invented (Pictures 2 and 3). These burned oil and fat from animals.





Eventually, gas light and then electric light were invented, and for the first time people could have homes lit brightly enough to be able to read or work at night (Picture 4).

## Modern light

You can get a good idea of how little light we can make for ourselves if you turn on all of the lights in a room on a bright sunny day. You will find they make almost no difference.

▲ (Picture 4) Sources of light in a modern home (as well as sunlight through the windows) include light from electric lamps and light from a fire. In the past, there was no electricity and so light would have come from a gas or oil lamp or a candle. These were not as bright as modern electric lights.

### Summary

- We use artificial light to help us see indoors and at night.
- Artificial light is much weaker than sunlight.