Light that comes from nature is called natural light. There are few natural light sources in the world. The Sun is our main source of natural light. The Sun both lights and warms our world. Life on Earth could not exist without the Sun.

Did you know that the Sun is a star? The other stars we see in the night sky are so far away we get very little light and heat from them.

▲ Stars are sources of natural light.
The Moon sometimes helps us to see at night. However, the Moon does not produce light. What we call moonlight is really just sunlight. The Moon shines because sunlight bounces off it.

▲ The Moon shining at night.

▲ Sunlight bounces off the Moon, making moonlight.

**Learning Tip**
Check your understanding of this diagram by explaining it to a partner.
Natural light is also produced by the northern lights, lightning, volcanoes, falling meteors [MEE-tee-uhrz], and forest fires.
Some living things, such as some animals and some mushrooms, can produce light.

Natural sources of light are important to us. However, we can’t control them. For example, we can’t turn the Sun on and off to meet our needs.

**Check Your Understanding**

1. What is the main source of natural light on Earth?
2. Write down three sources of natural light that you have seen. Write down one source of natural light that you know about, but have not seen.
3. What is moonlight?