

# Properties of waves

Yutong 30/08/2022

# Waves

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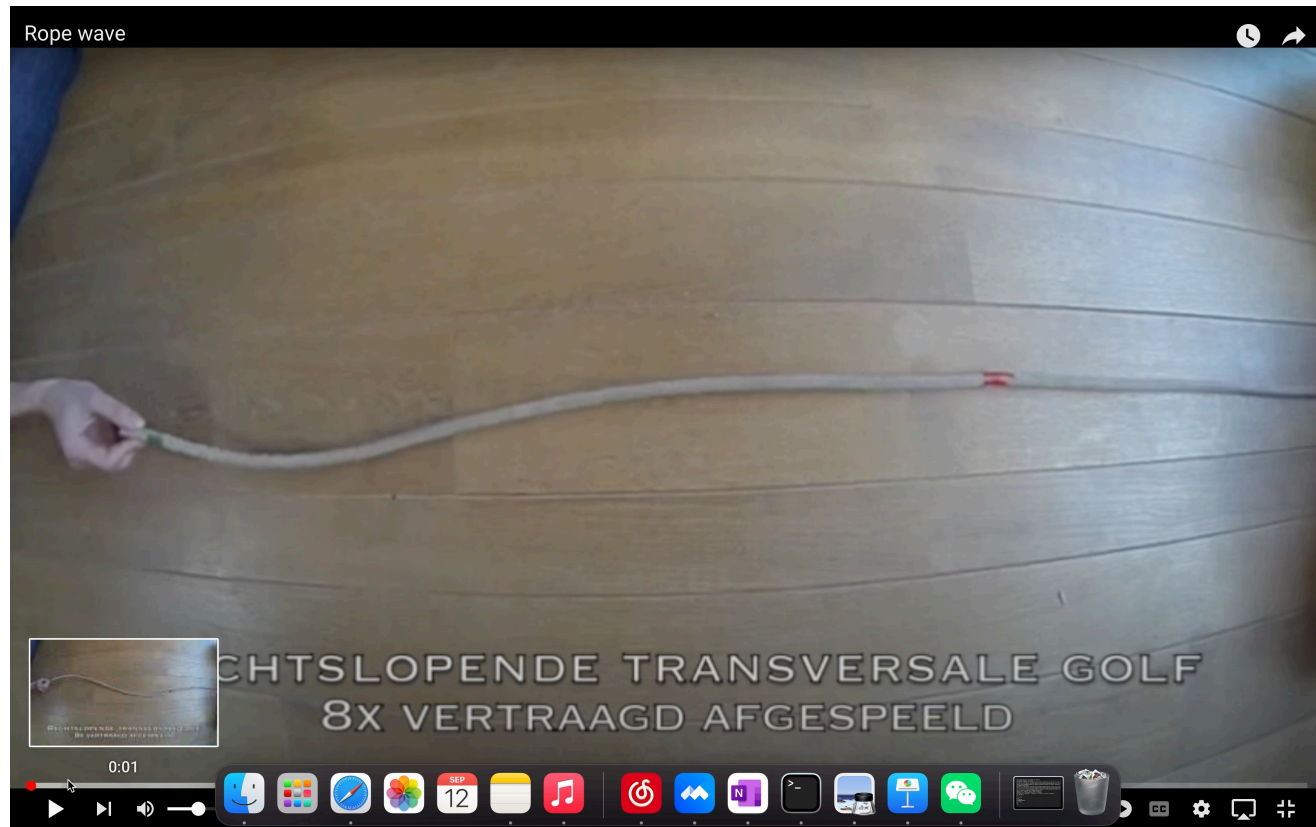


# Waves

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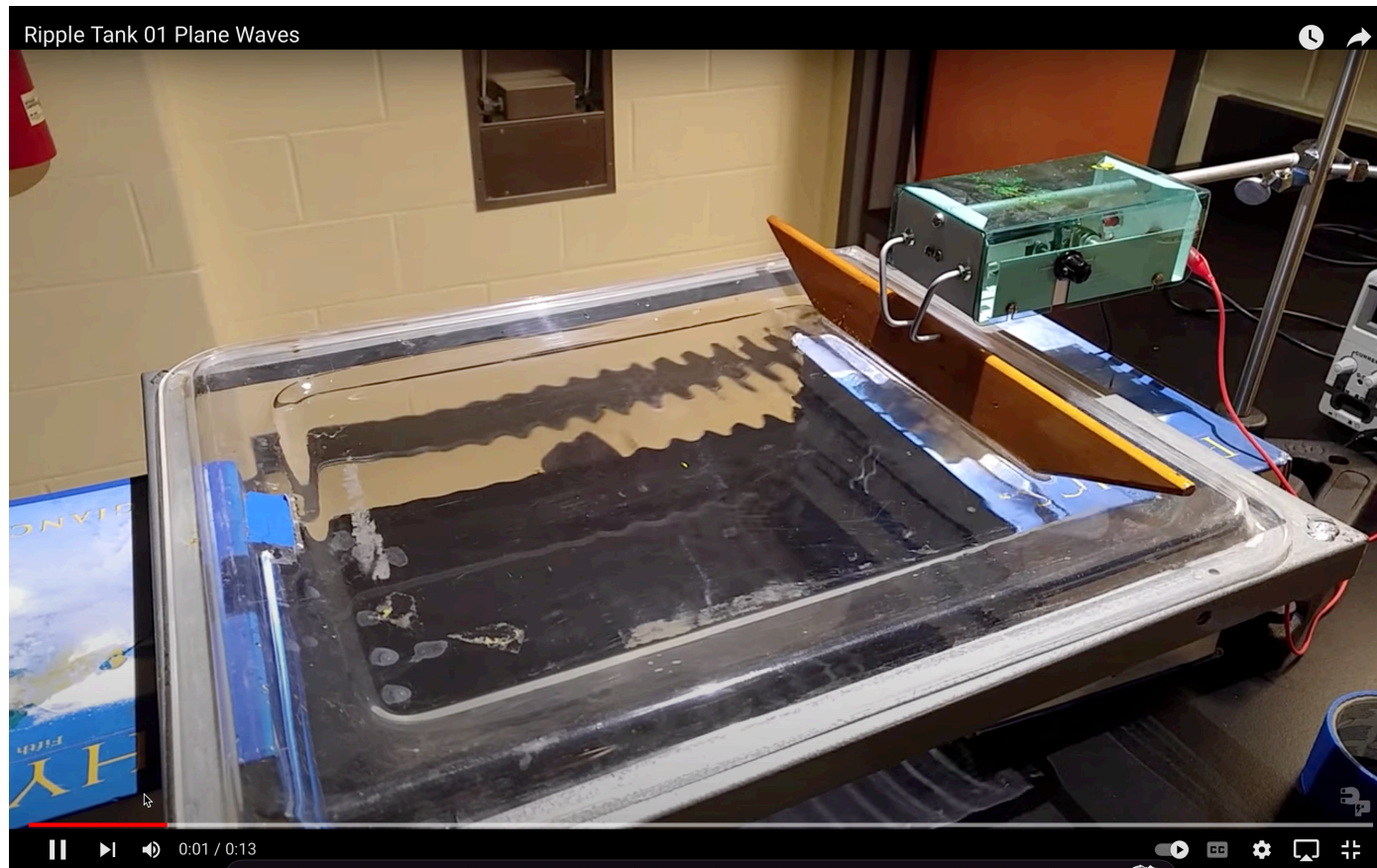


# Waves





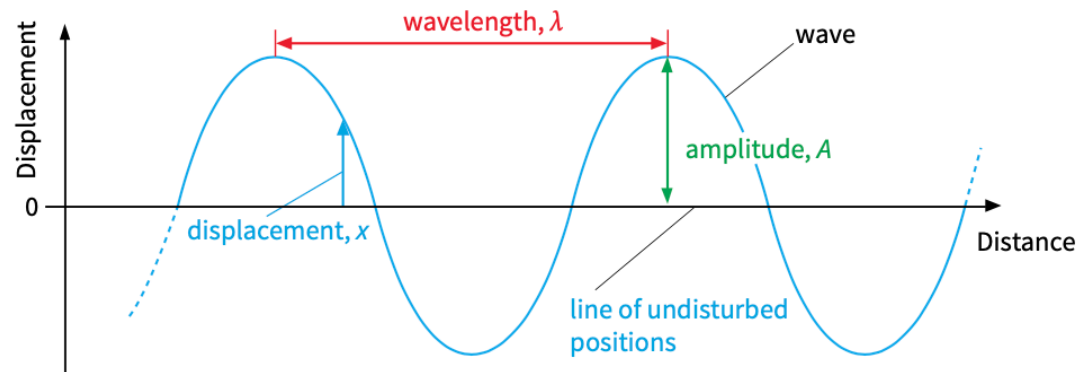
# Waves



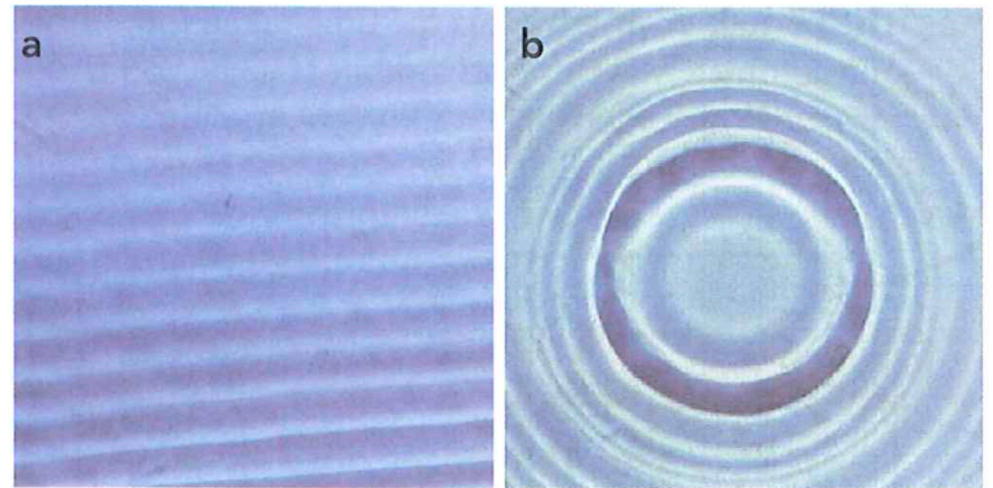
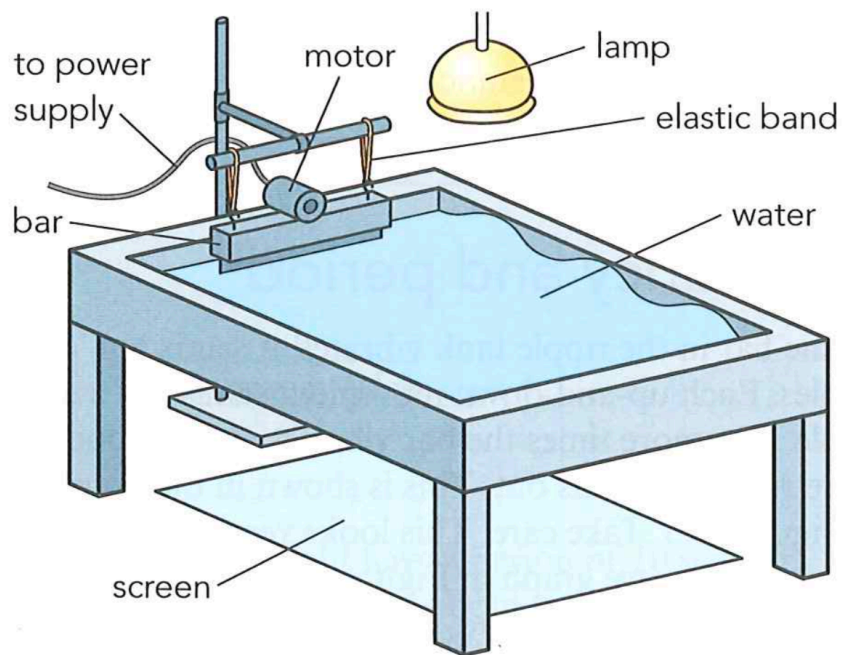
# Wave model

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In physics, we extend the idea of a wave to describe many other phenomena, including light, sound, etc. We do this by imagining an idealised wave.



# Ripple bank demonstration



- a. Bar
- b. Dipper

Vibrate up and down



- a. straight ripples: a broad beam of light
- b. circular ripples: light spreading out from a lamp

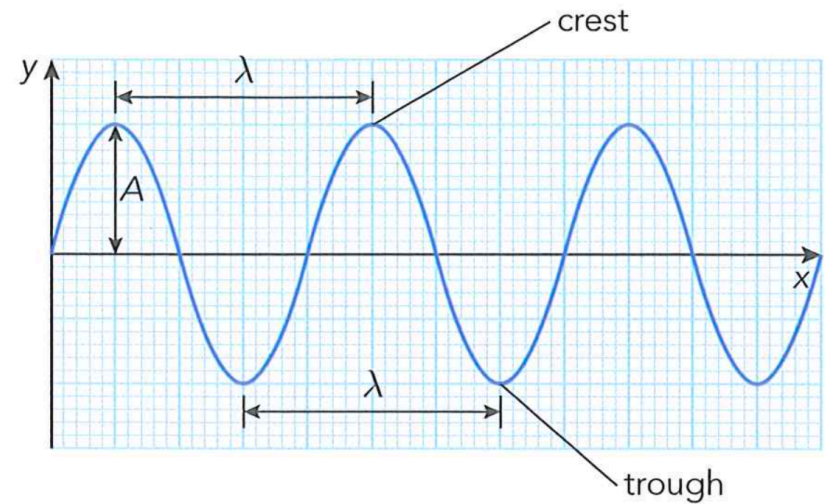
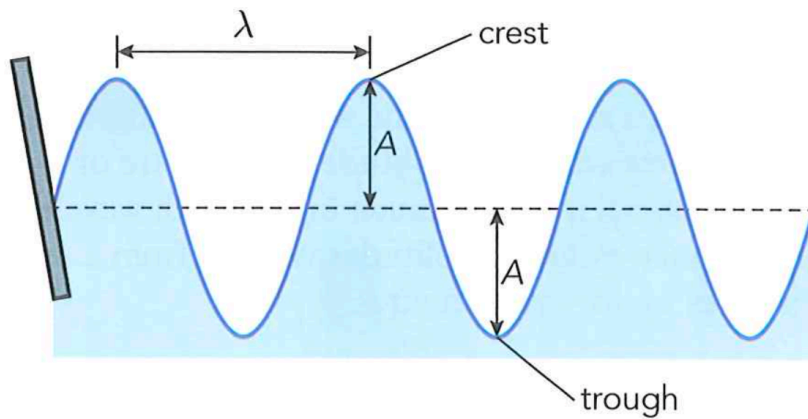
# Ripple bank demonstration

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- Bar/dipper vibrates up and down vertically => ripples move out horizontally
- Molecule moves up and down and drags its neighbors up and down
- **Wave transfers energy not matter/ wave is moving not matter**

# Wave model: wavelength & amplitude

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Mathematical representation:

$$y = \sin x$$



# Wave model: wavelength & amplitude

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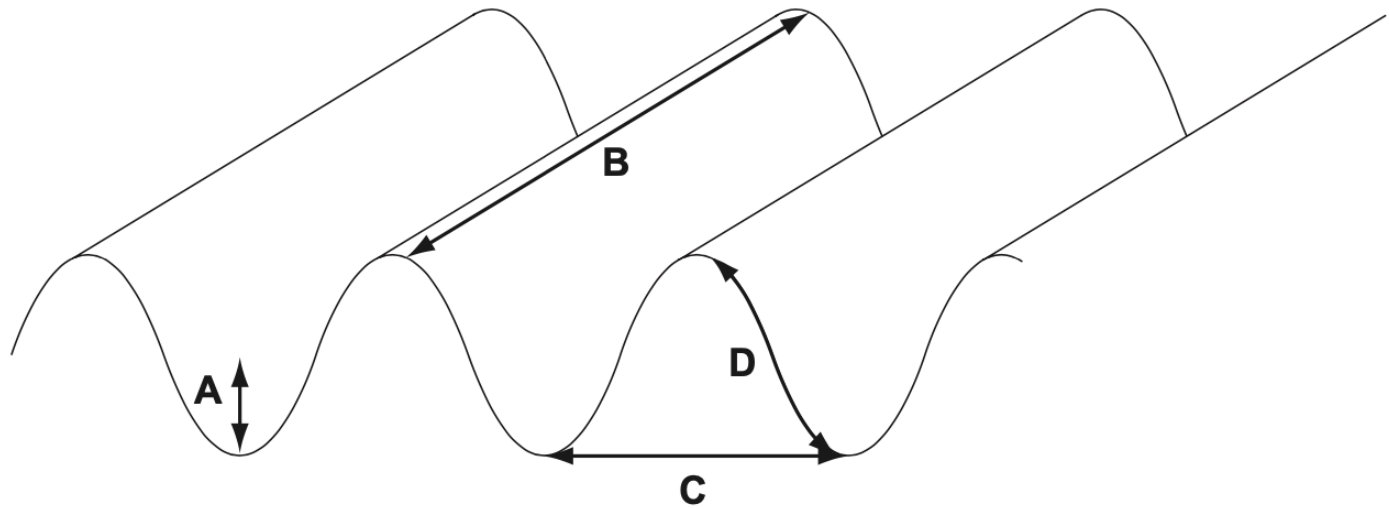
- **Wavelength  $\lambda$ :** the distance from one **crest** to the next/ btw any two points which are in step; unit: m
- **Amplitude A:** the height of the crest/ the depth of a trough; unit: m
- **Wavefront:** the set of all *points* having the same *phase*
- What are the wavelength/ amplitude of ripples in the ripple bank?

# Wave model: wavelength & amplitude

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The diagram shows a water wave in a ripple tank.

Which line represents a wavefront?

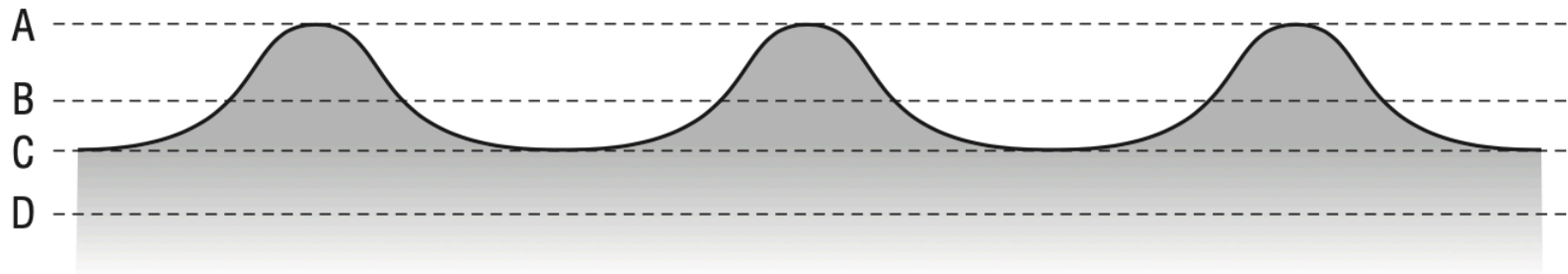


# Wave model: wavelength & amplitude

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The diagram shows a section through a series of waves on water.

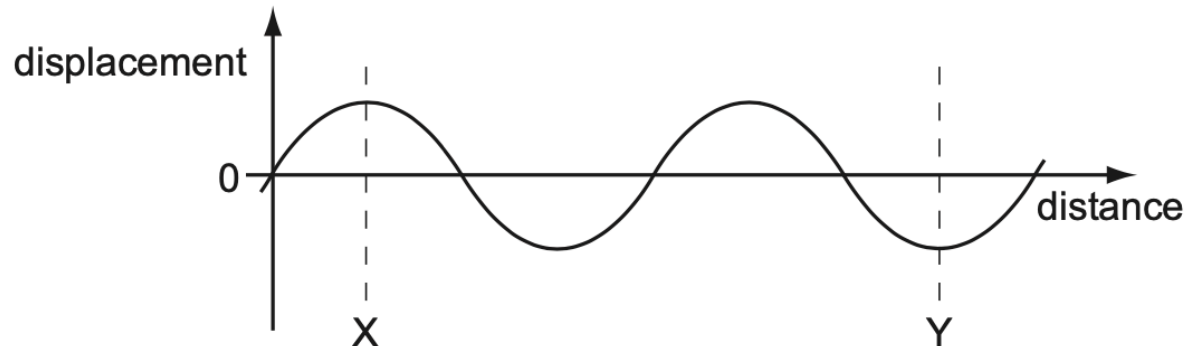
Which dotted line shows the position of the still water surface after the waves have passed?



# Wave model: wavelength & amplitude

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The diagram shows a wave.



How many wavelengths are there between X and Y?

**A**  $\frac{2}{3}$

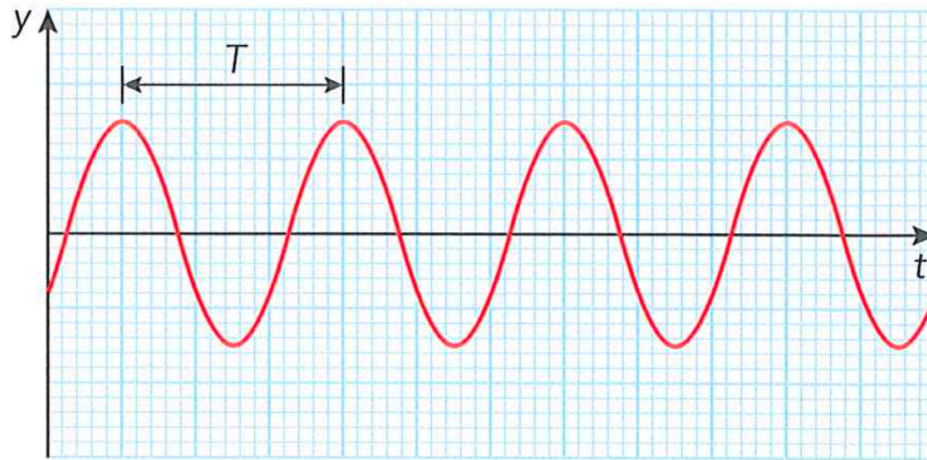
**B** 1

**C**  $1\frac{1}{2}$

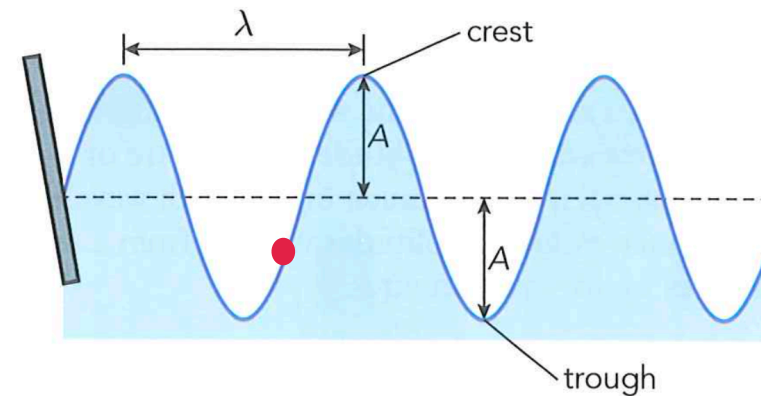
**D** 3

# Frequency and Period

- Each up-and -down movement (vibration) by bar/dipper sends out a single ripple
- More vibrations/second => more ripples/second
- What are the frequency of ripples in the ripple bank?



Wave at **a particular point** moves up and down as time passes

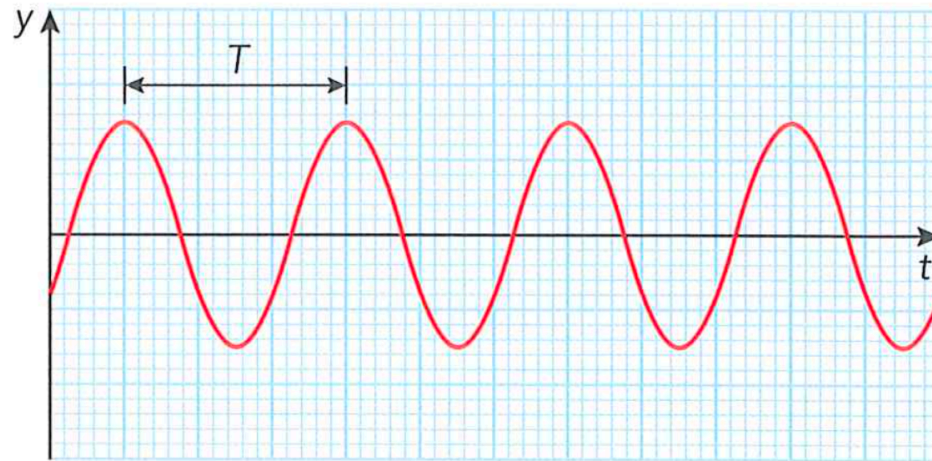




# Frequency and Period

- X-axis: time **t**!!
- **Frequency f**: number of waves send out per second; unit: Hz
- **Period T**: the time taken for one complete wave to pass a point

- $T = \frac{1}{f}$



Wave at a particular point moves up and downs time passes

# Frequency and Period

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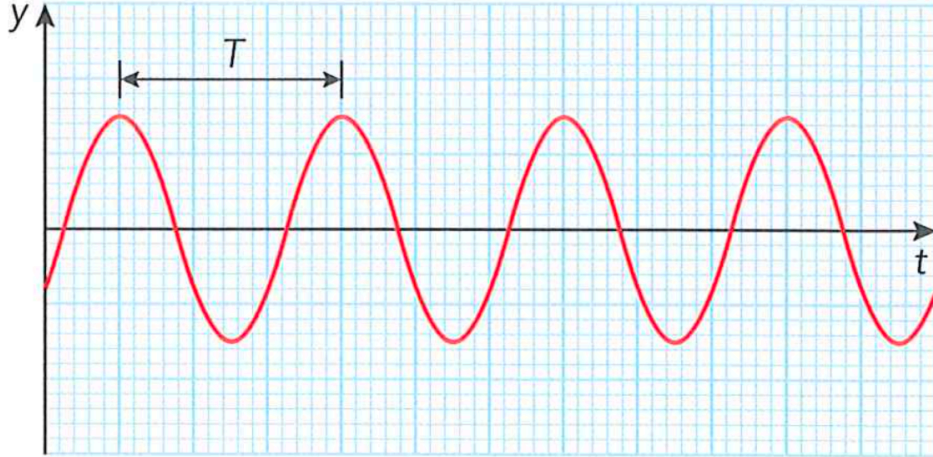
- $f = \frac{1}{T}$

- $T = \frac{1}{f}$

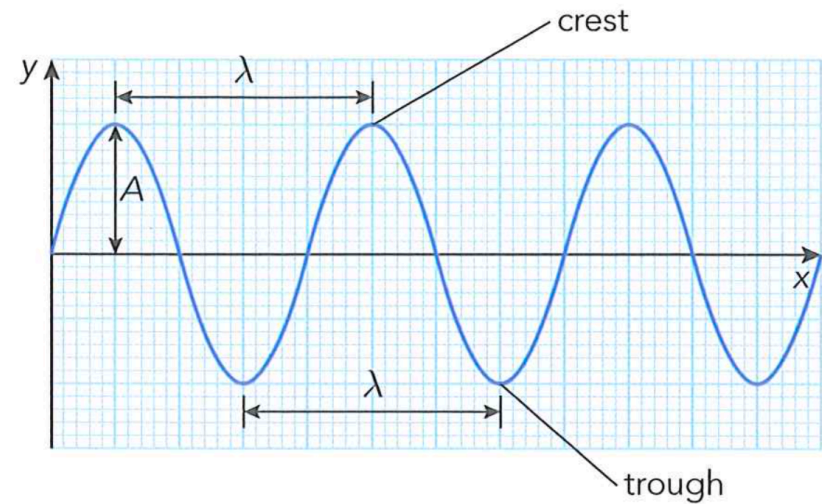
- Waves on the sea :  $T = 10\text{s}$ ,  $f = 0.1\text{Hz}$
- Sound wave:  $f = 0.001\text{Hz}$ ,  $T = ?$
- Electricity:  $f = 50\text{Hz}$ ,  $T = ?$

# Frequency and Period

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Wave at a particular **point** moves up and downs time passes

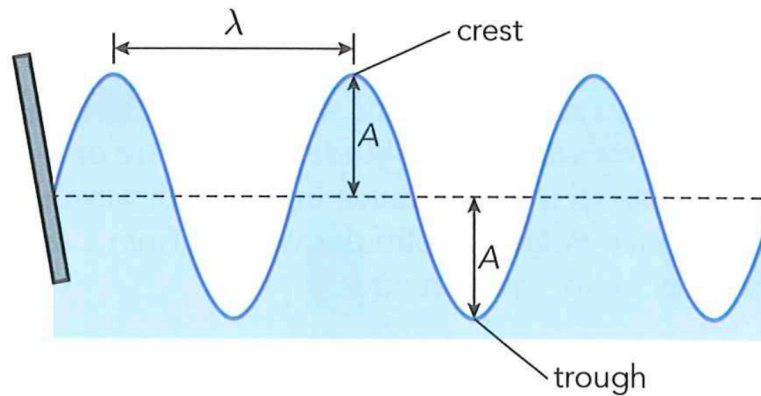


Wave at a particular **time** moves up and downs time passes

# Wave speed

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- **Wave speed:** the rate at which the crest of a wave travels  
E.g. the speed of the crest of a ripple traveling over the surface of the water
- Unit: m/s



# Wave speed

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Which is the best description of the speed of a water wave?

- A** the distance between one wave crest and the next
- B** the distance between the crest of a wave and a trough
- C** the distance that a particle of water moves up and down in one second
- D** the distance that a wavefront moves along the surface in one second



# Wave speed

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- **Wave speed:** the rate at which the crest of a wave travels

E.g. the speed of the crest of a ripple traveling over the surface of the water

- Unit: m/s

$$v = \frac{\lambda}{T}$$

$$\lambda = vT = \frac{v}{f} \quad f = \frac{1}{T}$$

- Sound wave through air:  $v = 330m/s$
- Light wave through air:  $v \approx 3 \times 10^8 m/s$

# Wave speed

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An FM radio station broadcasts signals of wavelength 1.5 meters and frequency 20MHz. What is their speed?

# Wave speed

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The highest note on a piano has a frequency of 4186Hz. What is the wavelength of the sound waves produces when this note is placed? Give your answers to two significant figures.

# Changing material, changing speed

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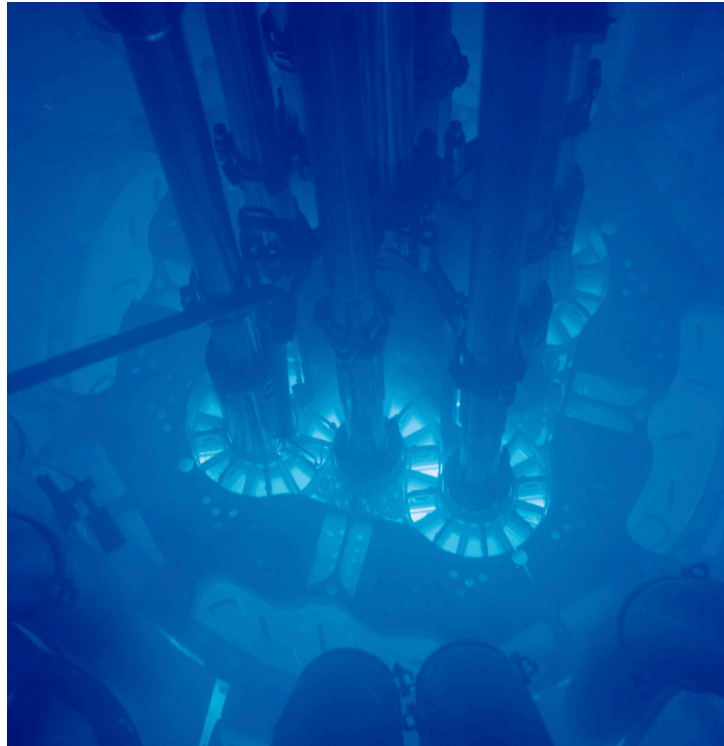
Faster than the speed of light?

# Changing material, changing speed

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Faster than the speed of light?

Cherenkov radiation





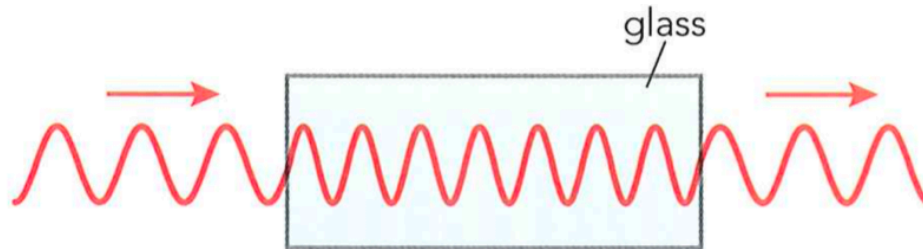
# Changing material, changing speed

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Waves travel in different materials will have different speed.

**light** in vacuum:  $c$     in water:  $75\%c$     in glass:  $67\%c$

**sound** in air  $<$  sound in steel



**Frequency unchanged;**  $v = \lambda f$   
(  $\lambda = \frac{v}{f}$  )

$v \uparrow \Rightarrow \lambda \uparrow$

# Changing material, changing speed

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A wave in air has a frequency of 1100Hz, an amplitude of 4cm and a wavelength of 30cm.

- a. Calculate the speed of the wave
- b. Calculate the period of the wave

# Changing material, changing speed

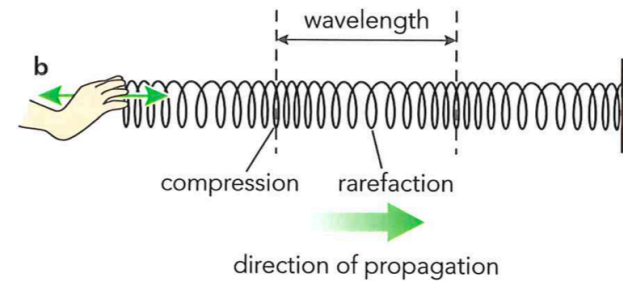
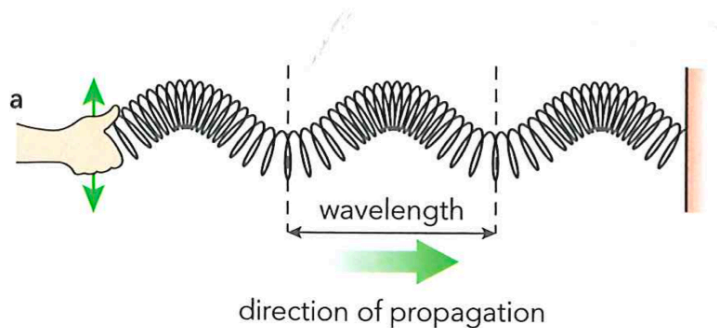
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Sound waves get faster when they go from air into water. What happens to their:

- a. Speed?
- b. Wavelength?
- c. Frequency?
- d. Period?

# Transverse and longitudinal waves

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**Transverse waves:** the particles carrying the wave move from side to side, at **right angle** to the direction of propagation of the wave.

**Longitudinal wave:** the particles carrying the wave move back and forth, **along** the direction of the propagation of the wave.

# Transverse and longitudinal waves

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Transverse waves	Longitudinal waves
ripples on water	sound
light and all other electromagnetic waves	primary seismic waves (P-waves)
secondary seismic waves (S-waves)	

# Waves and energy

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Alternatively, we can think of **wave speed** as the speed at which **energy** being transferred

**Sun:** light wave and infrared wave(radiation); sun -> earth

**Loudspeaker:** sound wave; source -> ear

Large **amplitude** (bright light/loud sound) -> more energy transferred

# Waves and energy

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# Waves and energy

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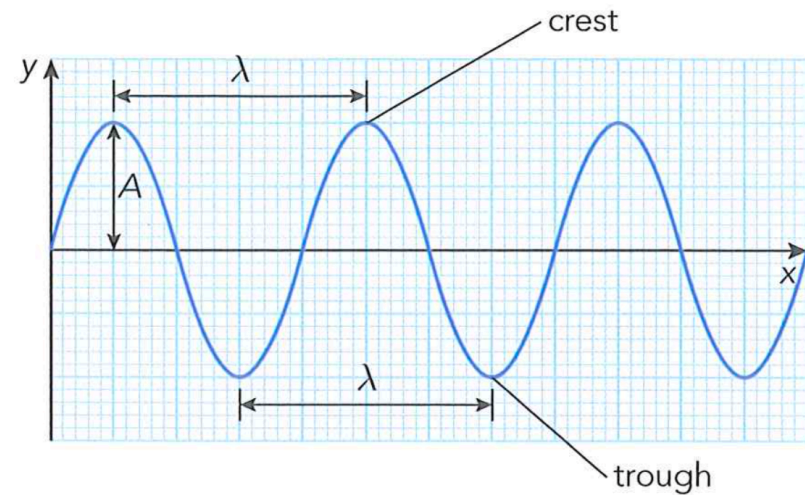
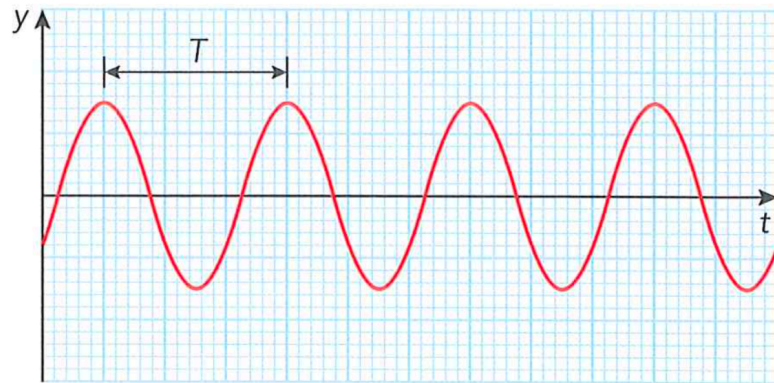
- A wave moves and transfers **energy** not matter
- Wave can travel through **medium or vacuum**



# Summary

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- Wave model: crest, trough, amplitude  $A$ ,  $\lambda = vT = \frac{v}{f}$   $f = \frac{1}{T}$
- y-t vs y-x graph
- Wave moves & transfers energy not matter



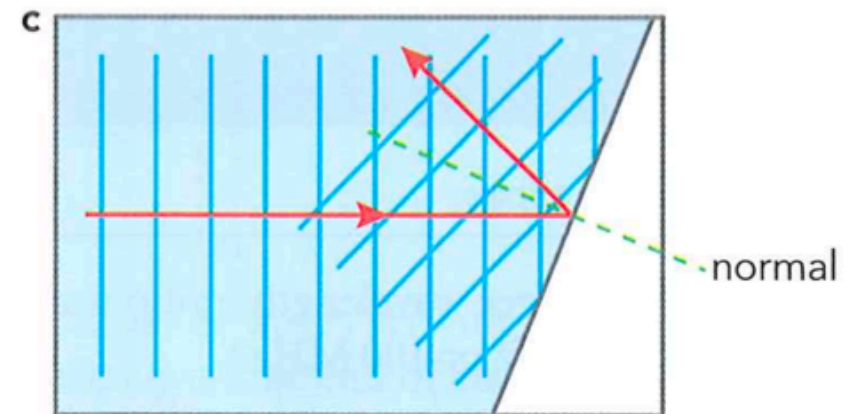
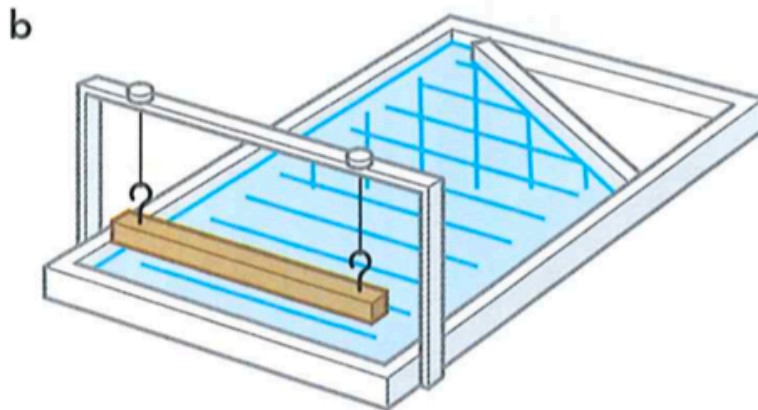
# Explaining wave phenomena

Reflection:



# Explaining wave phenomena

Reflection:

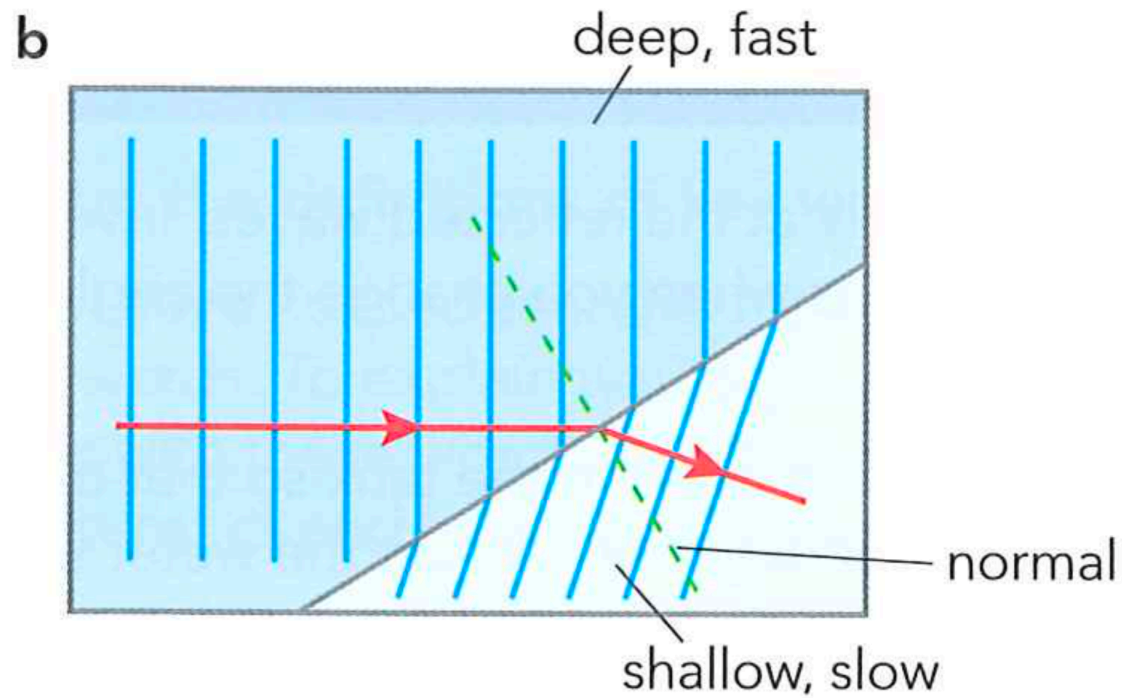


$$\theta_{\text{incidence}} = \theta_{\text{reflection}}$$

# Explaining wave phenomena

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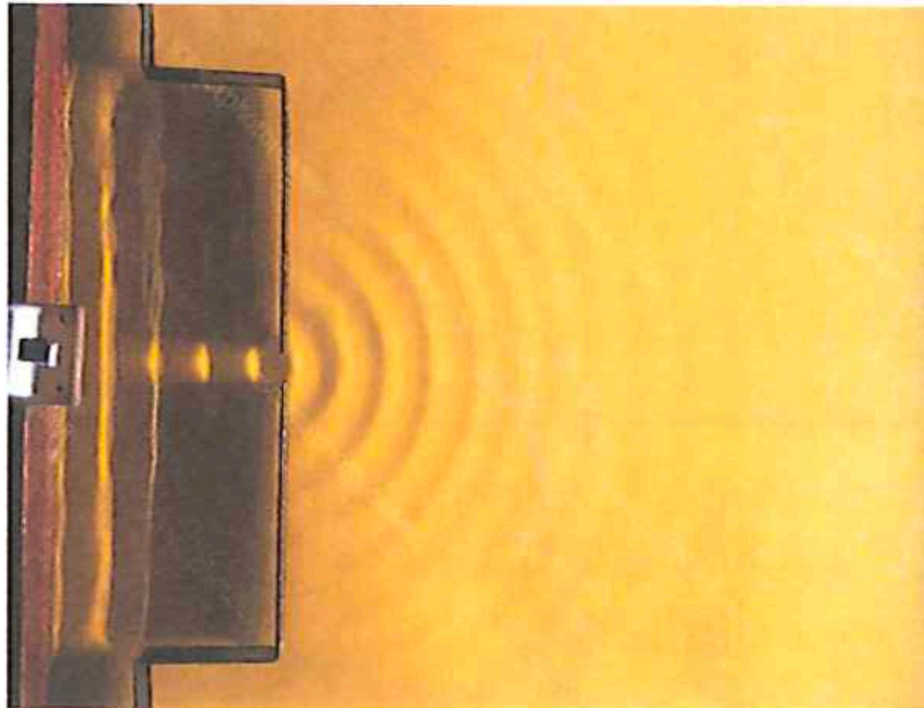
Refraction:



# Explaining wave phenomena

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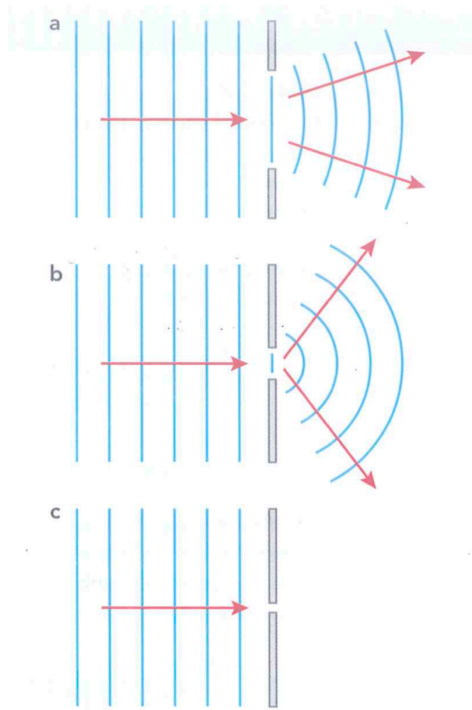
**Diffraction:** a wave spreads out when it travels through a gap or past the edge of an object.



# Diffraction

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Diffraction effect is **greatest** when the **size of the gap or the object** equals to the **wavelength**.



# Diffraction

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Diffraction effect is **greatest** when the **size of the gap or the object** equals to the **wavelength**.

