

# Quick Vocabulary

## Lesson 1

**compression** region of a longitudinal wave where the particles in the medium are closest together

**crest** highest point on a transverse wave

**electromagnetic wave** can travel through empty space and through matter

**energy** ability to cause change

**longitudinal wave** makes the particles in a medium move parallel to the direction of the wave

**mechanical wave** travels only through matter

**medium** material in which a mechanical wave travels

**rarefaction** region of a longitudinal wave where the particles are farthest apart

**transverse wave** disturbance is perpendicular to the direction of the wave

**trough** lowest point on a transverse wave

**wave** disturbance that transfers energy from one place to another

## Lesson 2

**amplitude** maximum distance particles in a medium move from their rest position as waves pass through the medium

**frequency** number of wavelengths that pass by a point each second

**wavelength** distance from one point on a wave to the same point on the next wave

# Quick Vocabulary

## Lesson 3

**absorption** transfer of energy by a wave to the medium through which it travels

**constructive** pertaining to building or putting parts together to make a whole

**diffraction** change in direction of a wave when it travels by the edge of an object or through an opening

**interference** waves that overlap combine to form a new wave

**law of reflection** angle of incidence equals angle of reflection

**normal** perpendicular to or forming a right angle with a line or plane

**reflection** bouncing of a wave off a surface

**refraction** wave changes direction, because its speed changes

**transmission** passage of light through an object