The Visible Spectrum

The **visible spectrum** is the portion of the electromagnetic spectrum that can be detected by the human eye. Electromagnetic radiation in this range of wavelengths is called **visible light** or simply light. There are **no exact bounds to the visible spectrum**; a typical human eye will respond to wavelengths from 400 to 700 **nanometers** [one nanometer is one billionth of a meter], although some people may be able to perceive wavelengths from 380 to 780 nanometers. A light-adapted eye typically has its maximum sensitivity at around 555 nanometers, in the green region of the optical spectrum.