



The anatomy of the human eye (above). The principal structures of the human eye and their functions (below).

Structure	Function
External layer (Sclera)	
sides and back of sclera	protects and supports the eyeball
cornea	bends light rays into the eye
Intermediate layer (Choroid)	
sides and back of choroids	absorbs scattered light and contains blood vessels
iris	regulates the amount of light that enters the eye
pupil	is the opening for light to enter the inner eye
ciliary muscles	changes the shape of the lens in order to focus
Internal layer (Retina)	
rods	photoreceptors that are sensitive to dim light
cones	photoreceptors that are sensitive to different wavelengths of light (colour vision)
fovea centralis	contains a high density of cones, and provides acute vision
Other	
lens	focusses light rays onto the fovea centralis
humours	support the eyeball, with the pressure of the fluids they contain
optic nerve	transmits sensory information to the brain