



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 |