



Light Speed

There is almost nothing in the world that can travel faster than the speed of light! Light travels at a constant speed of about 186,000 miles per second (in a vacuum). Of course, we don't live in a vacuum (a vacuum is a space that has no matter - not even air). That means light doesn't travel exactly that fast on Earth, but it still travels way faster than anything else!

The speed at which light travels is called **light speed**. The stars you see in the sky are light waves from stars far, far away. That light is very old by the time it gets to you.

The light from our closest star, the sun, takes just over 8 minutes to get to Earth, even though it's traveling 93 million miles! That means if the sun were demolished, we it would take 8 minutes for our sunlight to go dark.

If you could travel as fast as the speed of light, you could go around the equator in about .13 seconds. You could circumnavigate the earth almost 8 times in one second.

Now that's super swift!