

## GLOSSARY

### C

**chromatic aberration** the focusing of different colors of light at different distances behind a lens (585)

**critical angle** the minimum angle of incidence for which total internal reflection occurs (580)

### D

**dispersion** the process of separating polychromatic light into its component wavelengths (583)

### I

**index of refraction** the ratio of the speed of light in a vacuum to its speed in a given transparent medium (564)

### L

**lens** a transparent object that refracts light rays, causing them to converge or diverge to create an image (568)

### R

**refraction** the bending of a wave disturbance as it passes at an angle from one medium to another (562)

### T

**total internal reflection** the complete reflection of light at the boundary of two transparent media; this effect occurs when the angle of incidence exceeds the critical angle (580)