

### Passage

The word *Photography* is derived from two Greek words which together mean “to draw by light.” Producing a photograph is simply obtaining the image of an object by the action of light on a prepared sensitive surface. Taking a photograph with a modern camera is a comparatively simple process compared with that which produced some of the early photographs, still to be seen, for instance, in family albums. The early camera was large and cumbersome to handle, and, when assembled in position, had to be carefully focussed on the object—a lengthy operation. Later on, with focussing scales on cameras (and built-in range finders on the more expensive models), the setting occupied only a few seconds. With the early hand-operated cameras the exposure was made by removing a lens cover, and counting the length of the exposure in seconds. There was also the tedious task of loading and of preparing a sensitive glass for which the photographer had to carry with him a portable dark room or a large plate changing box. Now the same operation consists simply of breaking the seal on a carton and loading, in daylight, a roll of film, which provides sufficient and light-sensitive material for eight to thirty-six exposures according to the type of camera used.

## Questions

1. Trace the origin and meaning of the word *photography*.
2. What were the difficulties faced by people operating the camera in early days?
3. How was the exposure made in the early hand-operated cameras?
4. Why did the photographer of earlier days carry a portable dark room with him?
5. How is the light-sensitive material obtained in modern days?