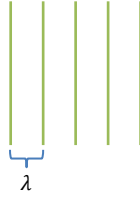
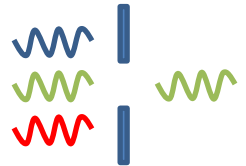


CONCEPT: DIFFRACTION

- Remember! Light travels in a straight line so long as it isn't disturbed
 - This allows light to be described as RAYS

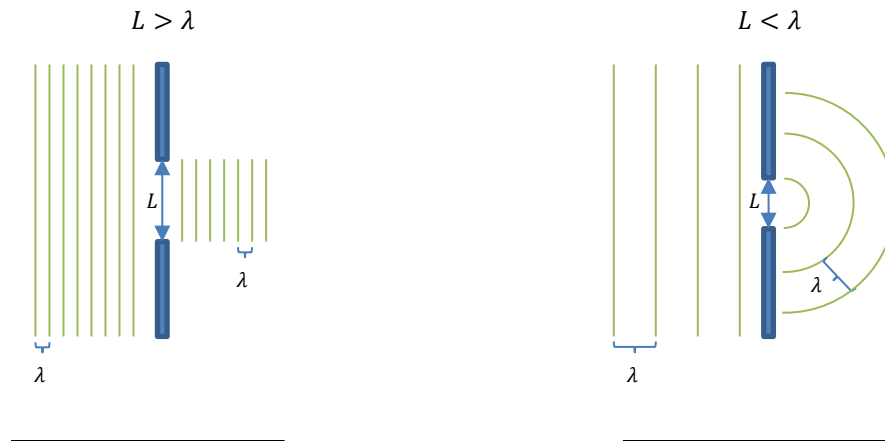


- A common way to disturb light is to have it encounter a SLIT – a small opening between two barriers
 - The slit is the only passage for the light through the barriers
 - Depending on the WIDTH of the slit, the rays may OR MAY NOT be disturbed



- DIFFRACTION refers to the phenomenon of light rays being spread apart when encountering a slit

- Diffraction will not occur for just ANY slit – The slit must be SMALL compared to the wavelength



- Light passing through a slit acts differently when diffraction is ignored:

