

Year 6 - Light

Key Vocabulary

Dark	Dark is the absence of light.
Image	An image is a picture of how you see objects when light from them reaches your eyes.
Light	Light is the form of energy that makes it possible for us to see things with our eyes.
Light ray	A light ray is a straight line showing the light's direction of travel.
Opaque	Opaque materials/objects block all light.
Ray diagram	A drawing showing the straight-line paths that light travels in from a light source to the eye, often reflecting off objects on the way.
Reflect	Light reflects when it 'bounces back' off a surface or object. All objects reflect some light otherwise we wouldn't see them.
Scatter	If a light ray scatters, it changes direction to a different random direction.

Did you know?

It takes 8 minutes and 20 seconds for light from the sun to reach the earth.

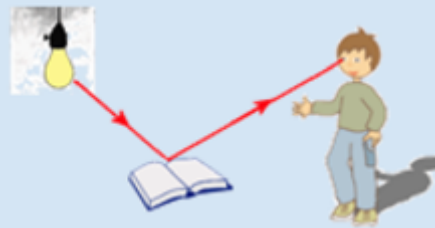
Light Sources

Light sources create their own light. A mirror or the moon are not light sources. This is because they reflect light so do not create it.



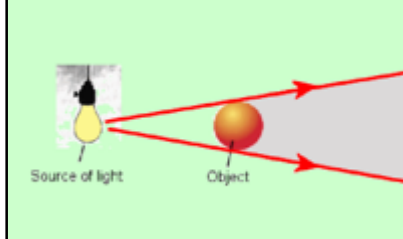
Seeing things

For objects that are not a light source, light must be reflected from the object into our eye in order for us to see it.



How are shadows made

A shadow is always the same shape as the object that casts it. This is because when an opaque object is in the path of light travelling from the light source, it will block the light ray that hit it while the rest of the light can continue to travel.



Shadows are longer or shorter depending on the angle of the light source. A shadow is also larger when the object is closer to the light source. This is because it blocks more of the light source.