

Lower Key Stage 2 - Forest Academy

Knowledge organiser - Light

Key vocabulary

angle	the direction from which you look at something
bright	a colour that is strong and noticeable, and not dark
chemical reactions	a process that involves changes in the structure of something
dark	the absence of light
dim	light that is not bright
electricity	a form of energy that can be carried by wires and is used for heating and lighting, and to provide power for machines
emits	to emit a sound or light means to produce it
light	a brightness that lets you see things
mirror	a flat piece of glass which reflects light, so that when you look at it you can see yourself reflected in it
opaque	if an object or substance is opaque, you cannot see through it
product	something that is produced
reflects	sent back from the surface and not pass through it
shadows	a dark shape on a surface that is made when something stands between a light and a surface
source	where something comes from
sunglasses	glasses with dark lenses which you wear to protect your eyes from bright sunlight
surface	the flat top part of something or the outside of it
torches	a small electric light which is powered by batteries and which you can carry
translucent	if a material is translucent, some light can pass through it
transparent	if an object or substance is transparent, you can see through it

What is a light source?

- A light source is something that emits light by burning, electricity or chemical reactions.
- Burning light sources include the Sun, flames from a fire and stars.
- We must never look directly at the Sun as the light produced is very bright and can be harmful to our eyes. This is why we wear sunglasses.
- Electric lights include lamps, car headlights and street light.
- Lights that are caused by chemical reactions are much less common. This happens when different chemicals react and light is a product of that reaction. Examples can include glow sticks and fire flies.



Why do we need light?

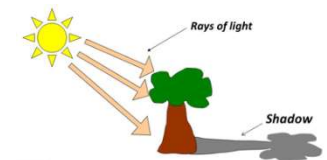
- We need light so that we are able to see in the dark.
- This is because the dark is the absence of light. The Sun and stars always give us light but we can only see the stars when it is dark. At night time we cannot see the Sun's light as the Earth turns and our part of the Earth is not lit up by the Sun at night.
- When we are driving, we need car headlights or street lights to help us.
- If we are walking or out in the dark, we would need torches to help us see. You should not look directly into the torch as this is dangerous

What are not sources of light?

- The Moon is not a source of light even though we can see it in the dark.
- This is because the Sun's light reflects on the surface of the Moon making it appear as though the Moon emits light.
- Shiny things are not light sources - they appear to be sources of light as they are bright.

How does light travel?

- Light travels in straight lines.
- When light is blocked by an opaque object, a dark shadow is formed.



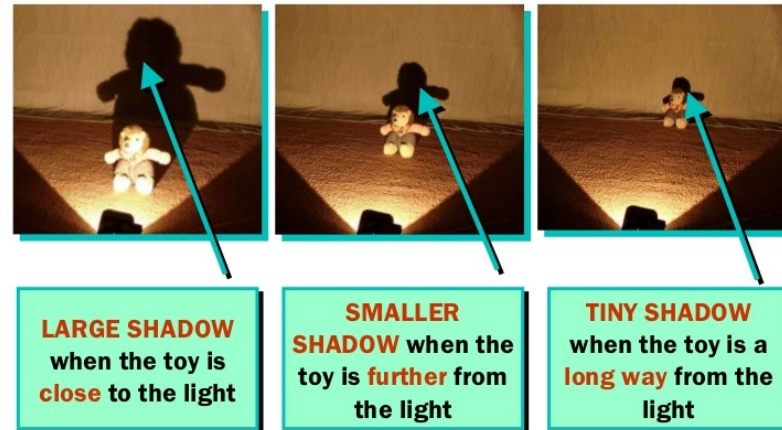
Translucent, transparent or opaque?



How are shadows formed?

- When light is blocked by an opaque object, a dark shadow is formed. An opaque material blocks light so we can't see through it and shine a light through it.
- When light is shone onto a transparent object, the light travels through it, we can see through it and it makes a very faint shadow.
- When light is shone onto a translucent object, some of the light travels through it, we can see bright light sources through it and it makes a fairly dark shadow.
- The size of a shadow changes as the light source moves. The further away the light source is, the smaller the shadow is. The closer the source of light, the bigger the shadow.

Size of shadows



Famous Scientists - Thomas Edison

- **Thomas Alva Edison** was a famous American inventor.
- He is best known for inventing '**domestic**' **lightbulbs** to go in houses, and the electric power system that allows them to work.
- He came up with **over 1000 successful inventions in his lifetime.**