Light

Year 6



Key Vocabulary Key Knowledge

Key Vocabulary				
WORD	DEFINITION			
angle	the space between 2 intersecting lines			
light	a form of energy			
light source	an object that provides its own light			
opaque	it describes materials which do not allow light to travel through			
optical	relating to the science of optics (sight)			
reflected	when light shines on a surface and bounces back			
rotate	to turn an object around a centre point			
spectrum	a band of several colours			
transparent	it describes materials which do allow all light to trave through			
variable	any one of the elements of an experiment which could be changed			

Shadows

A **shadow** is made when an **object blocks light**. A shadow is a **dark area** or **shape** caused by a solid object blocking the rays of light from a light source.



How We See

Light travels in straight lines.
The light rays from a light source reflect off the object we are looking at. The light travels in a straight line and enters the eye through our pupil.

Light sources

A **light source** makes light. The **Sun** and other **stars**, **fires**, **torches** and **lamps** all make their own light, so they are examples of sources of light.





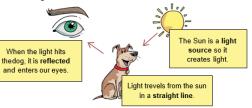


Reflective light

We can see things because light is **reflected**. Some materials reflect light better than others.

Light travels in straight lines. When light from an object is reflected by a surface, it changes direction.

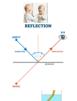
Smooth, shiny surfaces such as mirrors and polished metals reflect light well. Dull and dark surfaces such as dark fabrics do not reflect light well.



When light hits an object, it is **reflected** (bounces off) and enters our eyes. This is how we see the object.

We need **light sources** to be able to see; otherwise, there is no light to reflect o surfaces and into our eyes. This is why we cannot see in the dark.

Bending Light



Reflection
Light reflects off shiny,
bright or light surfaces.
That is why you can see
your reflection when you
look in a mirror.

Refraction

Water and bent shiny surfaces cause light rays to be reflected at different angles, meaning the reflection of the image is distorted.

Absorption and reflection of light

Colours





An object is seen as black if it absorbs all colons of white light

White light is

formed.

made up of

the colours of the rainbow.

When light is refracted through a transparent object, a rainbow is