

Light and Dark

How do we get light?

Surprisingly, light can come from many different places and these are called light sources. Some light sources occur naturally like the sun but others are man-made and use electricity. It can be confusing to know which objects are light sources and which are not. Did you know that the moon is not a source of light? Objects like the moon only reflect light from its original source, although, if a rock is heated up enough to be melted it can become a source of light itself.

How light travels?

Unknown to some, light can travel at an incredible speed of 300 million metres per second. Despite the speed of light it can actually only travel in straight lines that come directly from the light source. When light travels, it may meet objects that do block or restrict the amount of light that can pass.

Types of different objects

Opaque: If an object is opaque this does not allow light to pass and blocks the path and the light has to reflect which creates shadows.

Transparent: If the object is transparent then light can pass through very easily.

Translucent: If the object is translucent then only some light can pass through but the rest of the light will be reflected.

Shadows

Incredibly, a shadow is a dark area where light cannot reach. When an opaque object blocks the ray of light, the light is blocked off by that object and this creates a shadow. Any dark area that is formed, is only done so when there is no light present and the more light that is blocked, the bigger the shadow or darkness.

Did you know?

- Light is made up of 7 colours.
- The sun is our largest source of light.

Sun safety

- Don't look directly at the sun.
- Wear sunglasses with high Ultra Violet so that you keep your eyes healthy.