

### Knowledge Organiser

Year Group	Subject	Topic
3	Science	Light

#### The Big Picture

Light helps us to see the world around us. Some objects produce their own light, while others reflect light. We need light to see objects. The Sun is our main natural source of light and provides heat and light for life on Earth. Shadows are formed when light is blocked by an opaque object. Different materials allow different amounts of light to pass through them.

#### Enquiry Question

**How does light help us to see and how are shadows formed?**

**By the end of this unit, I can:**

- Identify different sources of light.
- Explain the difference between natural and artificial light sources.
- Understand how the Sun helps us and how to stay safe in sunlight.
- Explain that we need light to see.
- Describe how light reflects from surfaces into our eyes.
- Explain how shadows are formed.
- Identify transparent, translucent and opaque materials.
- Investigate how the distance between a light source and an object affects the size of a shadow.

#### Key Vocabulary

Word	Definition
Light	A form of energy that allows us to see.
Light Source	An object that produces its own light.
Natural Light Source	A light source found in nature, such as the Sun or stars.
Artificial Light Source	A light source made by humans, such as a torch or lamp.
Sun	Our nearest star that provides heat and light.
Reflect	When light bounces off a surface.
Reflection	The bouncing of light from a surface.
Mirror	A smooth surface that reflects light well.
Shadow	A dark area formed when light is blocked.
Opaque	Does not allow light to pass through.
Transparent	Allows all light to pass through.
Translucent	Allows some light to pass through.
Distance	How far apart two objects are.
Conclusion	What we found out from an investigation.
Protect	To keep something safe from harm.
Sunglasses	Glasses that protect our eyes from bright sunlight.

## Core Knowledge

### 1. LIGHT SOURCES

#### NATURAL LIGHT SOURCES



Sun

Stars

#### ARTIFICIAL LIGHT SOURCES



Torch

Lamp

Mobile Phone

Street Light

### 2. HOW WE SEE



Light Source



Light from the source hits an object.



The light reflects off the object and enters our eyes.



Our brain processes the information and we see the object.

We need light to see.

### 3. STAYING SAFE IN THE SUN



Wear sunglasses

Wear a hat

Use sun cream

Stay in the shade



**Never look directly at the Sun.**

The Sun provides heat and light needed for life on Earth!

### 4. REFLECTION



Mirror

Light reflects off shiny surfaces such as mirrors.

### 5. TRANSPARENT, TRANSLUCENT AND OPAQUE

#### TRANSPARENT

All light passes through.



Examples:  
clear glass,  
clean water



#### TRANSLUCENT

Some light passes through.



Examples:  
tracing paper,  
frosted glass



#### OPAQUE

No light passes through.



Examples:  
wood, metal,  
brick



### 6. SHADOWS



Shadows are formed when light is blocked by an opaque object.

Shadows cannot be formed without a light source.

### 7. SHADOW INVESTIGATION

#### OBJECT CLOSE TO THE LIGHT



Large shadow

#### OBJECT FAR FROM THE LIGHT



Small shadow

The **closer** an object is to the light source, the **larger** its shadow.  
The **further** an object is from the light source, the **smaller** its shadow.

#### Key Facts to Remember

- ★ The Sun is our main natural source of light.
- ★ We need light to see objects.
- ★ Light reflects from objects into our eyes.
- ★ Shadows form when light is blocked by an opaque object.

- ★ Transparent materials let all light through.
- ★ Translucent materials let some light through.
- ★ Opaque materials do not let light through.
- ★ Moving an object closer to a light source makes its shadow larger.