Year 3/4 – Light

Things you need to know about light		Light	Key Vocab	
What is a Something that makes		We need light to be able to see things	Opaque	Opaque materials do not let any light
light source?	its own light	Darkness is the absence of a source of light.		through. They block the light. E.g. wood
Commo	n sources of light	Light travels in a straight line	Source	A thing from which something starts
The sun The stars		How we see things	Shadow	A dark are which is formed when light from a light source is blocked by an opaque object
Flames	Electric lights	We see things when light from a light source enters our eyes through the pupil	Transparent	Transparent materials let light through them in straight lines, so that you can see clearly through them (e.g. glass)
Some animals (fireflies and glow worms make their own light)		Pupil	Translucent	Translucent materials let some light through, but they scatter the light in all directions so you cannot see clearly through them (e.g. tissue paper)
				The Sun
		Light travels from the light source and into the eye If too much light comes through the pupil, it the eye.		t comes through the pupil, it can damage
Things you may think are light sources	The moon A mirror Shiny objects		It causes pain, so that you instantly close your eyes, or turn away from a bright light.	
but aren't			It is very important that you never look directly at the sun, as the light can damage your eyes very quickly.	
How does light travel?	In straight lines It travels very, very fast – 300,000km per second. That's like			to look directly at the sun, even when
₩\	travelling around the world over 7 times in a second!	The light travels from the light source, bounces off the object and into the eye	Bright lights indoors can also damage your eyes, so you should never look at them, or shine lights into anyone's eyes.	

Shadows

A **shadow** is formed when an object does not allow the light to pass through it.







LARGE SHADOW when the toy is close to the light

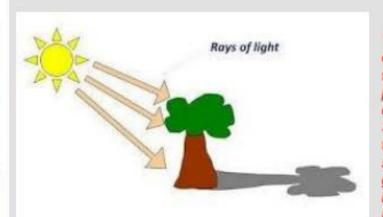
SMALLER SHADOW when the toy is further from the light

TINY SHADOW when the toy is a long way from the light



How a shadow is made

Shadows are made when there is an object blocking the light from hitting the surface. This means that the shadow will always be on the opposite side of an object to the sun or light.



The object needs to be an opaque object. If it is transparent then the light will pass through it, whereas a solid object will block it.
Some light passes through translucent objects. Although some light is blocked, some gets through and so a shadow is formed. These shadows are not as dark.

Shadows made by the sun change as the earth moves



The position of the Sun affects the position and length of the shadows created.

