Caroline Haslett Primary School - Science Topic: Light

What should I already know?

- Certain things produce **light**, usually by burning (e.g. the Sun) or **electricity** (e.g. street **lights**)
- Shiny materials do not make light but do reflect it.
- Shadows are caused when certain materials block light.
- **Light** travels in straight lines. When **light** is blocked by an **opaque** object, a **dark shadow** is formed.
- The further away the light source is, the smaller the shadow is. The closer the source of the light, the bigger the shadow.

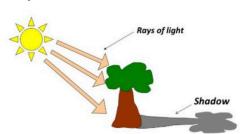
What will I know by the end of the unit?

How does light travel?

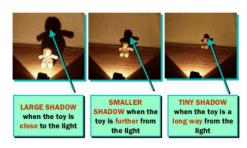
- Light travels in a straight line.
- When you place a torch on a table in a dark room, the beam travels in a straight line.
- Reflection is when light bounces off a surface this changes the direction in which the light travels.

What is the relationship between light sources and shadows?

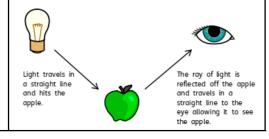
- Because light travels in straight lines, when there is an opaque object blocking the light, a shadow is formed.
- These shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.



 The size of a shadow changes as the light source moves.



How do we see?



Investigate!

- What happens when light is reflected from different surfaces? What happens when light is reflected from a mirror? What happens when the angle of the mirror (or light source changes?)
- Draw diagrams to show how **light** travels and what happens when **light** is **reflected** from a **mirror**.
- Draw diagrams to show how we see.
- Design an experiment to measure shadow length by changing a variable. Show your results in a line graph to show the relationship between distance of light source and shadow length. Explain your findings using scientific vocabulary.
- Create shadow puppets to show how light travels and to demonstrate that a shadow has the same shape as the object that casts them.
- Make a periscope and explain how it works using diagrams and scientific vocabulary. Use the idea that light appears to travel in straight lines to explain how it works.
- Research how mirrors are used in different contexts (e.g. rear view mirrors, on a dangerous bend) and explain why and how they work.
- Explain why objects look bent in water.
- Explore different contexts in which light travels including rainbows, colours on soap bubbles and coloured filters.

Vocabulary	
angle	the direction from which you look at 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 lookat it you can see yourself reflected in it
opaque	if an object or substance is opaque , you cannot see through it
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 the surface
source	where something comes from
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