Science - Light and reflection

| light | A store of energy that can be seen with <br> our eyes. |
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| light source | Where light comes from. |
| light ray | A narrow beam of light. |
| luminous | Something that gives off light. |
| non-luminous | Something that does not give off light. |
| transparent | A material that allows light to pass through <br> with minimal scattering or reflection so an <br> object is clearly visible. |
| translucent | A material that allows some light to pass <br> through. Light may be scattered, causing <br> objects behind to appear fuzzy or distorted. |
| opaque | A material that blocks or absorbs all light, <br> preventing objects on the other side from <br> being seen. |

Light travels in a straight line.
The holes must line up exactly for the light to pass through and show on the screen. This is because light cannot move around objects - it travels in
 a straight line.


Shadow: a dark area caused by something blocking the light.


A shadow is formed when an opaque object is in the pathway of light because light travels in straight lines.
Shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them. The size of a shadow changes as the light source moves.

Light can change direction when it reaches a different material. Reflection is when light does not pass through a material and changes direction.


Shiny surfaces reflect light uniformly, whereas rough surfaces scatter the light rays.


A ray diagram is a scientific drawing to show the pathway of light. It can be helpful to explain observations.


On a smooth surface, the angle of the
incoming ray
is the same
as the angle
of the reflected ray.

Light needs to enter the eye for us to see. It


Light may come directly from a luminous object or reflect off a non-luminous object.

Mirrors are useful in lots of situations:

- Looking at the back of your hair when you get it cut.
- Dentists looking at the inside of the mouth.
- Rear view and side mirrors in a car to look at your surroundings in a vehicle.

Periscopes are long, vertical tubes that contain a set of mirrors to give a view above the position of the eye.


