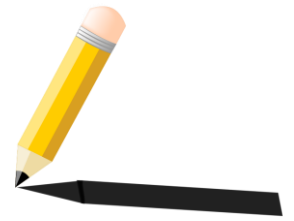


Name.....

## Science Comprehension



# Light and Shadows

The Sun, stars, fires, torches and lamps are all sources of **light**. Without light we wouldn't be able to see things and everywhere would be dark. Darkness is the absence of light. Sometimes the light that shines on an object comes directly from the source, but it is also often reflected from other surfaces. Some surfaces (such as mirrors) reflect light very well and (because they are flat) a very clear image can be seen in them. If the surface is not flat the reflected image will be distorted.

The light from the Sun is very strong and you should NEVER look at it directly. You could seriously damage your eyes!

**Shadows** are formed when light (which travels in straight lines) is blocked by an opaque (or solid) object. As the relative position of the Sun changes during the day so do the shadows. The shadows at dawn and dusk are much longer than those during the middle of the day. Remember that it is the Earth that is actually moving and not the Sun.

1. How do we see things?

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2. What does the word 'distorted' mean?

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3. Why is the word NEVER in capital letters?

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4. Is there any light in the area where a shadow is formed?

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## Answers

1. We see things when light shines on objects from a source or is reflected from another surface.
2. It means when an image has been changed. The image might be pushed together, stretched or twisted.
3. To stress or emphasise how important it is not to look directly at the Sun.
4. Often there is because you can still see an object that is placed in the shadow. You can, for example, still see someone standing in the shadow of a tree. The light that shines on them must have been reflected from another surface.