

Nova's Night-time Light Lesson

Learning objective: To understand that light is required to see things and that light travels from sources.

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions using full sentences where possible.

Nova the barn owl loves the night sky. While other animals are sleeping, she is wide awake, observing the world. Nova knows that to see anything in the dark, she needs light. She often watches the moon, but she remembers that the moon is not a light source itself; it simply reflects the light from the Sun. A true light source is something that creates its own light, like a torch, a lightbulb, or the Sun. When Nova flies through the forest, she notices that if she stands in front of a bright object, a dark patch appears on the ground. This is a shadow. Shadows form when an opaque object blocks the path of light. Because light travels in straight lines, it cannot bend around objects. If Nova holds up a clear piece of glass, the light passes straight through because the glass is transparent, and no shadow appears. Whether it is a sunny afternoon or a dark, starry night, Nova is always fascinated by how light helps her navigate the world and keeps her safe during her nightly adventures.

Word bank: light source · reflection · shadow · transparent · opaque · luminous

1. According to the text, what is a light source? (2 marks)

2. What happens to light when it hits an opaque object? (2 marks)

3. Why does Nova need light to be able to see clearly at night? (2 marks)

4. Why does the moon not count as a true light source? (2 marks)

5. If you were building a garden den, would you choose transparent or opaque material to stop the sunlight from getting inside? Explain why. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Nova the owl standing in a forest. Include one light source and show how it creates a shadow on the ground.



Extension challenge: Research three more examples of light sources in your home and write a sentence explaining why each one is a light source.