

Nova's Starlight Science: Understanding Light

Learning objective: To recall and apply knowledge of how light travels, how shadows are formed, and how we see objects.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of light. Read the front, think of the answer, and then flip to check if you are correct!

Nova asks: How does light travel from a source to our eyes?

Light travels in straight lines.

What is the term for an object that does not allow any light to pass through it?

Opaque.

Max asks: If I look in a mirror, what happens to the light rays?

Reflection – the light rays bounce off the surface.

What do we call a material that allows some light to pass through, like frosted glass?

Translucent.

How is a shadow formed?

A shadow is formed when an opaque object blocks the path of light.

What is the term for the bending of light as it passes from one medium to another, such as from air into water?

Refraction.

Bea the bee asks: Why do we see objects?

Light reflects off objects and enters our eyes.

What is a light source?

An object that produces its own light, such as the Sun or a torch.

What happens to the size of a shadow if an object is moved closer to a light source?

The shadow gets larger.

What is the name of the coloured part of the human eye that controls how much light enters?

The iris.

White light is made up of a mixture of colours. What is this range of colours called?

A spectrum (or rainbow).

What do we call a material that allows light to pass through it clearly?

Transparent.