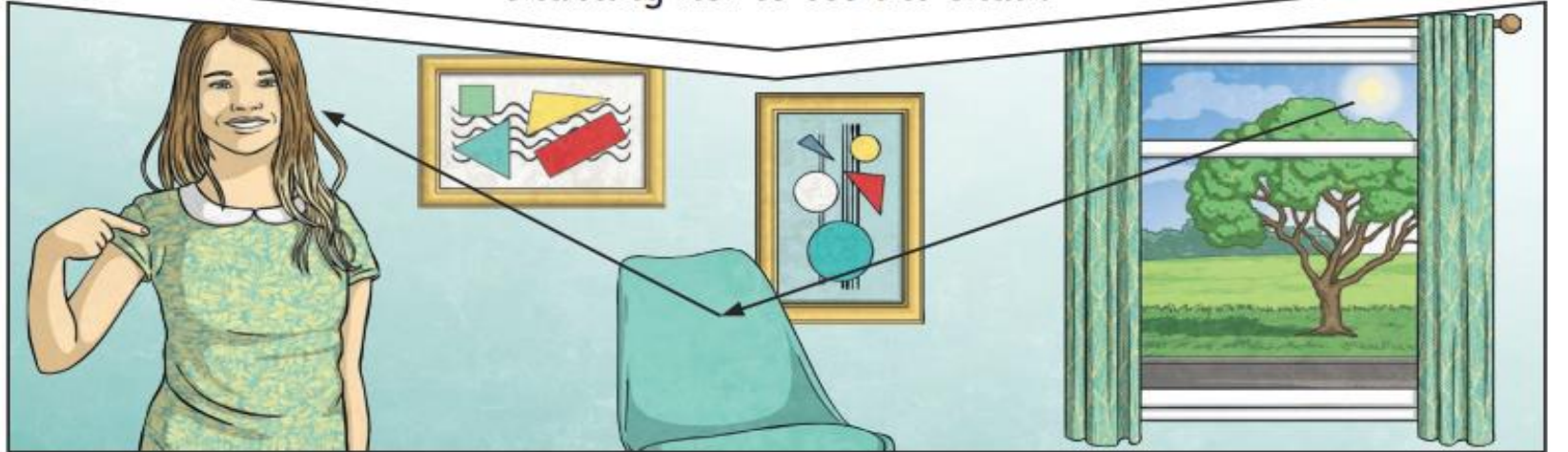


Why are shadows important in art?

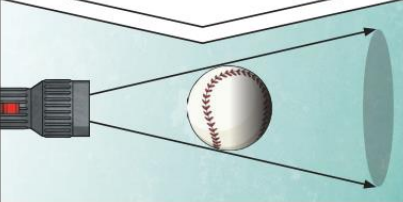
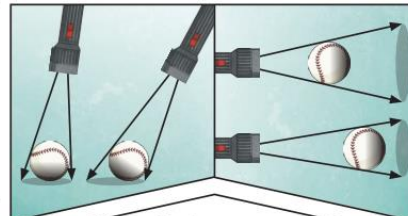
Key Vocabulary	
light	A form of energy that travels in a wave from a source.
light source	An object that makes its own light .
reflection	Reflection is when light bounces off a surface, changing the direction of a ray of light .
shadow	An area of darkness where light has been blocked.
transparent	Describes objects that let light travel through them easily, meaning you can see through the object.
translucent	Describes objects that things let some light through, but scatters the light so we can't see through them properly.
opaque	Describes objects that do not let any light pass through them.

Key Knowledge
We need **light** to be able to see things. **Light** waves travel out from sources of **light** in straight lines. These lines are often called rays or beams of **light**.

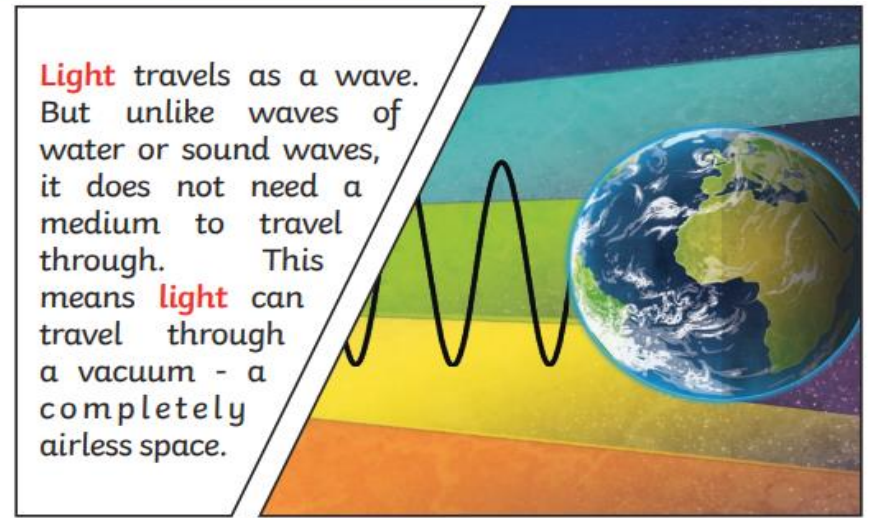
Light from the sun travels in a straight line and hits the chair. The **light** ray is then **reflected** off the chair and travels in a straight line to the girl's eye, enabling her to see the chair.



A shadow is always the same shape as the object that casts it. This is because when an **opaque** object is in the path of **light** travelling from a **light source**, it will block the **light** rays that hit it, while the rest of the **light** can continue travelling.



Shadows can also be elongated or shortened depending on the angle of the **light source**. A **shadow** is also larger when the object is closer to the **light source**. This is because it blocks more of the **light**.



Light travels as a wave. But unlike waves of water or sound waves, it does not need a medium to travel through. This means **light** can travel through a vacuum - a completely airless space.



Kumi Yamashita sculpts using both light and shadow. She constructs single or multiple objects and places them in relation to a single light source. The complete artwork is therefore comprised of both the material (the solid objects) and the immaterial (the light or shadow). Shadow is used in her work to create something unexpected.



Belgium-based illustrator and filmmaker Vincent Bal sees the playful potential of shadows cast by eyeglasses, a peeled clementine, and other household objects. Completed with minimal sketches in black ink, Bal's reimagined scenes have a playful approach to opaque shadows.