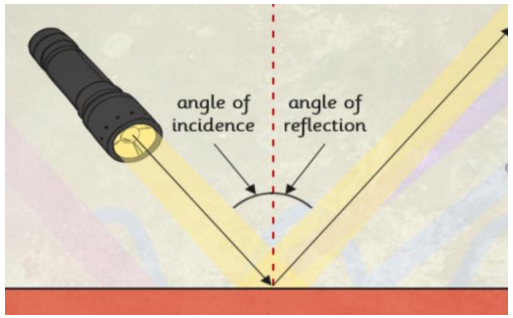
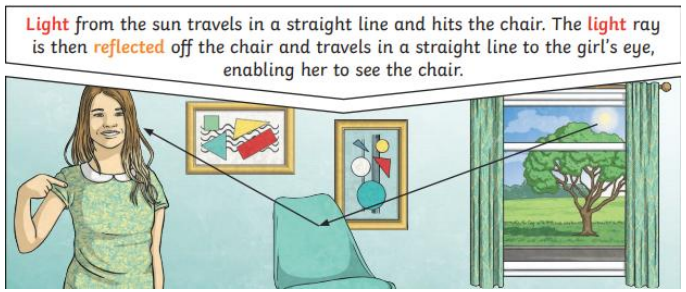
Year 6: How does light travel?

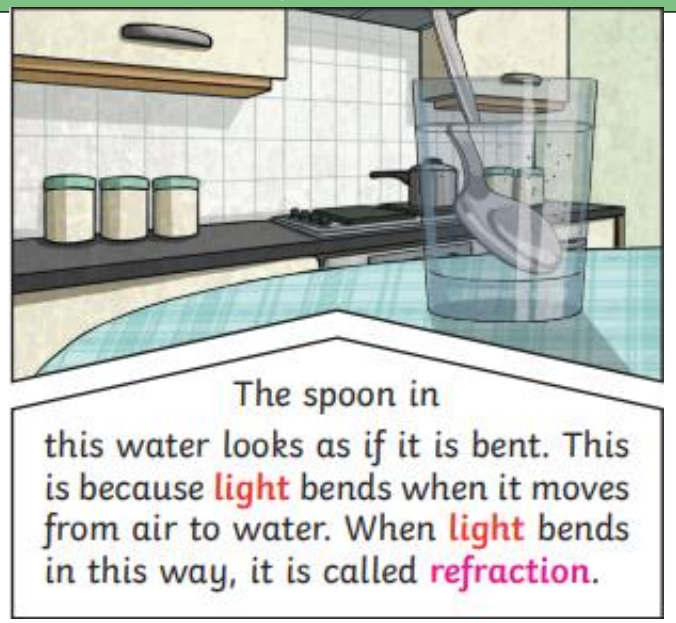
Subject Specific Vocabulary

reflection	Reflection is when light bounces off a surface - this changes the direction in which the light travels
shadows	A shadow is formed when an object blocks out the light. The object must be opaque or translucent to make a shadow.
light source	The main light source for Earth is the Sun. Some other luminous objects give out light, for example, torches, candles and lamps.
opaque	Opaque objects do not allow light to pass through them, in most cases creating a shadow.
refraction	It is the change of direction of a light ray as it passes through different surfaces, for example, from air to water.
Incident ray	A ray of light that hits a surface
Reflected ray	A ray of light that has bounced back after hitting a surface.
angle of reflection	
Angle of incidence	

How we see things



Refraction



Sticky Knowledge

Light travels in straight lines

An object can be seen because it gives out or reflects light into the eye in straight lines.

We see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes.

Investigate!

Using the idea that light travels in straight lines, explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them