



No shadow of doubt

Background knowledge

Light can pass through some types of matter. Matter that allows light to pass through it so a clear image can be seen is called *transparent*. Glass is transparent and this property is used for windows. Matter that allows some but not all of the light to pass through it is called *translucent*. Wax paper is translucent. Matter that does not allow any light to pass through it is called *opaque*. A shadow forms when an opaque or translucent object blocks the light.

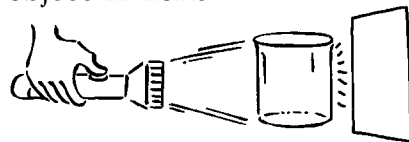
Science activity

Use a black pencil to draw in the shadows in this picture.



Science investigation

Collect different materials like a glass beaker, a paper bag, or wax paper. Predict which objects will allow the most light to pass through. Use a flashlight to shine light on the object. Place the object in front of a white wall, or tape a large piece of paper on the wall so you can see how much light can pass through. Create a table to classify the matter as transparent, translucent, or opaque.





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Science investigation

The young investigator should easily be able to create a table. Suggest that the child also notice differences in the degree to which materials are transparent, translucent, or opaque.

