

A photograph showing the lower half of a person in a dark suit standing on a paved surface made of rectangular stone tiles. The person is wearing dark trousers and black shoes. A long, dark shadow is cast to the left of the person, indicating a low sun position. The text "Why do shadows change?" is overlaid in white in the bottom-left corner.

Why do shadows
change?



Objects cast a shadow when they are in the light. Sometimes the shadow is big and sometimes there is very little shadow at all.

When you are outside, the light source is the sun. The type of shadow you will see depends on where the sun is in the sky.

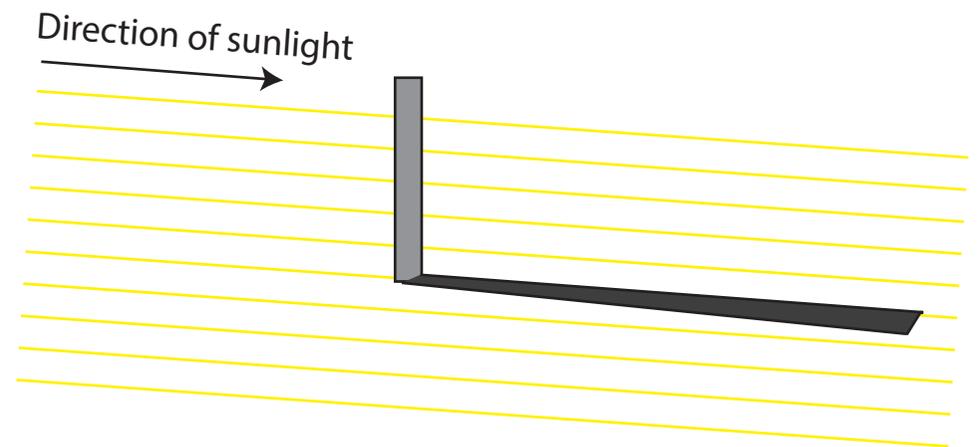




Why do shadows form?

Light travels in a straight line. It does not travel through objects. If an object gets in the way the light is blocked. The area behind the object gets no light so it is darker. A shadow forms.

You can always tell where the sun is if you look at shadows on the ground. If the sun shines on one side of an object the shadow will be cast on the other side.





Where do you think the sun is in this picture?



Look at the shadow of this tree. Where do you think the sun is now?



What happens to shadows when the sun is low in the sky?

Light and Shadows

