Have you ever wondered about the science all around us? Plants grow and change, the Sun rises to warm the Earth, and matter changes from one form to another. Investigate Life, Physical, Earth, and Technology science topics with Rourke's My Science Library. This library explores NSTA science standards with engaging text and colorful images to support readers from kindergarten to third grade.

Are you ready to investigate?

Books in My Science Library:

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- Animal Habitats
- Earth’s Changing Surface
- Floating and Sinking
- I Use a Mouse
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- Matter Comes in All Shapes
- Me and My Shadow: A Book about Light
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Tips on Reading this Book with Children:

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7. Complete the activities at the end of the book.

Comprehension & Extension:

- Summarize:
  What is a shadow?
  Can you name some sources of light?

- Text to Self Connection:
  Have you ever made shadows on the wall using your hands (shadow puppets)?
  What animals can you make?

- Extension:
  Compare and contrast things associated with light and things associated with the dark.

Sight Words I Used:
on through you your

Vocabulary Check:
Use glossary words in a sentence.
Science content editor: Kristi Lew  
A former high school teacher with a background in biochemistry and more than 10 years of experience in cytogenetic laboratories, Kristi Lew specializes in taking complex scientific information and making it fun and interesting for scientists and non-scientists alike. She is the author of more than 20 science books for children and teachers.

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What Makes a Shadow?

Walk to the park on a sunny day. Your **shadow** follows you.

When the Sun is in front of you, a shadow forms behind you.
Your body **blocks** the Sun’s **light**. The light cannot pass through you. A **dark** shadow forms on the ground.

*Your shadow moves as you move.*
Light travels in a straight line. It **shines** on this tree. It cannot pass through it. The tree **casts** a shadow.

*A tree’s shadow is shaped like the tree.*
Light: Inside and Out

You need light to see. In the day, the Sun lights the sky. Inside your home, rays shine through windows. Light passes through clear glass.

On a sunny day, you don’t need to turn on lights.
Close the blinds and the room darkens. Light cannot pass through the blinds. Many materials block light. Wood and cloth block light.
At night, it is dark. You turn on a lamp to see indoors.

A lamp lights the pages of a book. You cannot see the book without light.
Changing Shadows

Shine a flashlight on one hand. Your hand blocks light. It casts a shadow on the wall. Move the flashlight and the shadow moves.
Move your hand close to the flashlight. The shadow grows. Your hand covers more of the light.
Shadows change outside, too. They move during the day. They grow short and then long.
Later in the day, the Sun appears lower in the sky. Long shadows form.
Shadows are easy to spot on a bright, sunny day. How many shadows can you find?
1. How does a shadow form?
2. Can you name an object that light shines through?
3. Why do we need light?
Glossary

blocks (BLOKZ): to stop something from getting past

casts (KASTZ): to make a shadow appear

dark (DARK): without light

light (LITE): brightness from the Sun or a lamp that makes it possible to see

shadow (SHAD-oh): dark shape made by an object that blocks light

shines (SHINEZ): to give off light
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night 14
shadow(s) 4, 6, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

Websites

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/5_6/light_dark.shtml
www.pbskids.org/zoom/activities/do/shadowanimals.html
www.primarygamesarena.com
www.sciencekids.co.nz/gamesactivities/lightshadows.html

About the Author

Buffy Silverman’s shadow follows her when she hikes through fields near her home in Michigan. She writes about nature and science.
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