MORNING NOON AFTERNOON

Read the short story and answer each question.

How Shadows Change

Shadow

Have you ever noticed your shadow is longer at some times of day and shorter at others?

Sun

Shadow

Shadows are made when something blocks the sun's light. Your body blocks the light and makes a shadow on the ground.

In the morning, the sun is low in the sky. It shines from the side, so your shadow is long.

At noon, the sun is high above your head. It shines straight down, so your shadow is short.

In the late afternoon, the sun is low again. Your shadow becomes long once more.

The sun's position in the sky changes the length and direction of your shadow throughout the day.



How Shadows Change

- 1. When is your shadow the shortest?
- A. In the morning
- B. At night
- C. At noon
- D. In the evening

- 2. How does the diagram help explain the text?
 - A. It shows how shadows look at different times of day
- B. It shows how the sun makes rainbows
- C. It shows people standing under trees
- D. It shows how clouds move

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Your	body	/ makes a	shadow b	y blocking	the	

5. What would be confusing about the text if there were no images?

4. How do the pictures in the diagram help you understand what



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: M Lexile Level: 540L-640L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Informational Science Text

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll learn about how and why our shadows change throughout the day. We'll use the diagram to help us understand the position of the sun and how that affects what we see on the ground."

Vocabulary: shadow, sunlight, position, direction, noon

Before Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you ever seen your shadow change size during the day?
- What do you think causes shadows?
- 3. Why might a diagram help explain how shadows work?

During Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What causes a shadow to be long or short?
- 2. What happens when the sun is directly overhead?
- 3. What part of the diagram helps explain the time of day?

After Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. Why is the diagram important to understanding shadows?
- 2. How does the image match the text?
- 3. Could someone understand the idea without the picture? Why or why not?

Activity Idea

Students can create their own three-part diagram of a person and their shadow during the day. They label the sun's position and the direction of the shadow in each. Then they write one sentence describing how the picture helps explain the science.

