Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Science of Shadows: Comprehension

Nonfiction: Science · about 145 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

The Science of Shadows

Have you ever noticed your shadow following you on a sunny day? A shadow forms when an object blocks light. Light travels in straight lines. When something like your body is in the way, the light cannot reach the ground behind you, so a dark shape appears.

Shadows change during the day. In the morning, the sun is low in the sky, so shadows are long. At noon, the sun is high overhead, and shadows are short. In the late afternoon, the sun is low again, and shadows grow long once more, pointing the opposite way.

Long ago, people used shadows to tell time. A sundial has a pointer that casts a shadow on a dial marked with hours. As the sun moves across the sky, the shadow moves too. You can make your own sundial with a stick, some rocks, and a sunny spot.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?

   A. how to draw a picture B. how clocks are built C. why the sun is hot
   D. how shadows form and change

2. **Detail:** When does a shadow form?

   A. when it rains B. when you are sleepy C. when an object blocks light
   D. when the moon is full

3. **Detail:** When are shadows the shortest?

   A. at night B. in the morning C. at noon D. in the late afternoon

4. **Inference:** Why are shadows long in the morning?

   A. The ground is wet. B. The sun is very hot. C. The sun is low in the sky.
   D. It is cloudy.

5. **Vocabulary:** A sundial is...

   A. a kind of flower B. a sunny day C. a tool that uses a shadow to tell time
   D. a phone

6. **Detail:** What can you use to make your own sundial?

ANSWER KEY

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