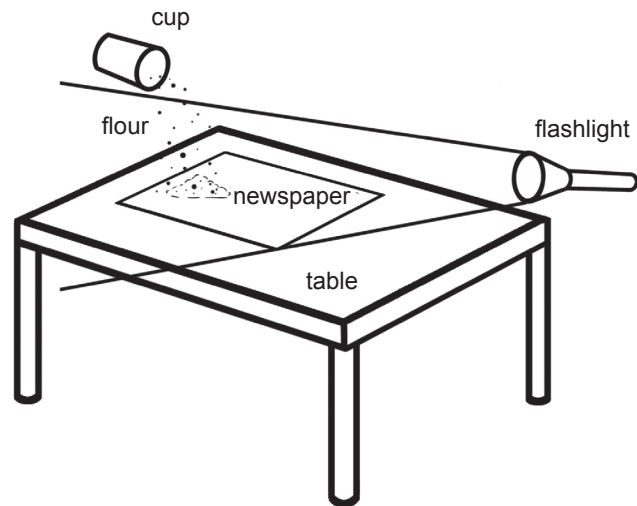


Experiment: How Does Light Travel?

Light travels in a straight line, and it travels fast—about 300 000 km/s. One way you can tell that light travels in a straight line is shadows. If you stand with your back to the Sun, your body will block the light. So the shadow you see in front of you is the space where no light is getting through. Here is another way to check that light travels in a straight line.

What You Need

- A flashlight
- Some flour in a cup
- Newspaper
- A partner



What You Do

1. Spread the newspaper on top of a table.
2. Turn the lights off in the room.
3. Turn on your flashlight and point the light across the table.
4. Have your partner sprinkle the flour slowly in front of the light. Sprinkle the flour about 10 cm from the lit end of the flashlight. Notice what happens.

Think About It!

1. How does this experiment show that light travels in a straight line?
