

Does it Reflect Light?- Teacher Page

Students will be testing objects to determine if they can reflect light. The data tables have been left blank so that you can include whatever objects you have available. Encourage students to be descriptive and detailed when recording their observations.

Possible objects to test might include: notebook paper, construction paper, plastic wrap, aluminum foil, paper folder, plastic folder, 3 ring binder, ziplock bag, plastic grocery bag, styrofoam cup, plastic cup, brown paper bag, pencil box, student's hand, magnifying glass/hand lense/eye glasses, etc.

Materials: flashlights, objects to test

During the investigation the lights in the classroom should be turned off and the window blinds should be closed. You will get better results the darker the room is.

After the investigation discuss the results. Were there any surprises? Did the objects that reflect light, all reflect equally? Where was the light when an object did/didn't reflect? During the discussion you will have students discussing how some objects reflect better than others/some objects "kind of" reflect light. As students struggle to describe, this is a great point to introduce the following vocabulary words: reflect, refract, absorb.

Does it Reflect Light?

Directions: Before you begin, make a prediction about each object. Position the flashlight to shine on the ceiling (a slight angle helps). Start with the mirror and adjust the angle of the mirror so that the light is reflected onto the table. Use this angle to test the objects listed below. Then place each object into the beam of light and check to see if the light is reflected onto the table. Record your results below.

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