Mirrors- Teacher Page

APK: What do you call the image of yourself when you look in the mirror?

Students will be investigating mirrors and the idea of reflection.

Materials: flashlights, mirrors, a target (this could be a paper adhered to the wall or an object placed on a shelf)

Clarification: This activity is intended to get students to recognize that light is reflected when they see their reflection in a mirror. The next activity, “Does it Reflect Light?”, will further investigate HOW light moves when it is reflected.

Mirrors

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mirrors reflect light. In your group of two, try each of these challenges, discuss, and write about how you accomplished each task. Remember to be descriptive so that other scientists can use your explanations to duplicate your results.

Challenge 1: With your partner sitting next to you, one person positions the mirror where they can only see themselves. Discuss with your partner what each of you see in the mirror (be descriptive). Then move the mirror until your partner can see you. You and your partner can discuss how to move the mirror, but only the person holding the mirror may actually touch it. Now discuss what each of you sees. Switch places so that each person gets a try adjusting the mirror.Describe below how a fellow scientist can move their mirror to see their partner.

Challenge 2: Use your mirror to move a beam of light. One person is holding the flashlight with the beam pointed straight down. The other person uses their mirror to move the beam of light to hit the target chosen by the teacher. Switch places so that each person gets a try adjusting the mirror. Next, change the position of the light (pointing up, pointing straight out, etc) and try again.