

REFLECTING LIGHT—FLASHLIGHTS VS. LASER POINTERS

Exploring Basic Principles of Light

In this center you will be exploring the differences and similarities in reflective properties between a conventional flashlight and a laser pointer. You are going to set up small mirrors on the table in an arrangement to see if you can reflect light successfully—ending up with light detectably projecting on the wall. First use one mirror, then two mirrors in a series, and then three mirrors in a series.

FLASHLIGHT	LASER POINTER
When you successfully get the flashlight to reflect in ONE mirror and project on the wall, diagram your light and mirror arrangement	When you successfully get the laser pointer to reflect in ONE mirror and project on the wall, diagram your light and mirror arrangement
When you successfully get the flashlight to reflect in a series of TWO mirrors and project on the wall, diagram your light and mirror arrangement	When you successfully get the laser pointer to reflect in a series of TWO mirrors and project on the wall, diagram your light and mirror arrangement
When you successfully get the flashlight to reflect in a series of THREE mirrors and project on the wall, diagram your light and mirror arrangement	When you successfully get the laser pointer to reflect in a series of THREE mirrors and project on the wall, diagram your light and mirror arrangement

Describe your general results with the flashlight—

Describe your general results with the laser pointer—

How might you incorporate this exploration into your instructional plans?