

Can you tell reflection from reality?

MIRROR MAZE



(Type) Science background	Ages 3-14	Topic Light	Time <10 mins
Skills used Observation - Curiosity			

Overview for adults

In the mirror maze, you will see your many different reflections surround you. Try to find the correct path through the maze by ignoring your reflection and just following the path – it might be trickier than you think.

What's the science?

Light reflects off the mirror and into your eyes. The more times the light bounces, the more reflections of yourself you see.

Reflection is where light bounces off an object. It travels out from a source of light like the sun or a light bulb in a straight line before hitting an object. It reflects off the object and into our eyes so that we can see the object it just hit.

Science in your world

Multiple mirrors help you to look behind yourself or see different angles of your own body. You will often find them in hairdressers and fitting rooms so that you can see in all directions.

Things to think and talk about ...

- How can you tell the difference between the reflections and the path?
- What does the back of your head look like? Is that what you thought it looked like?

Things to investigate ...

- How many reflections can you see?
- Where in the maze can you find the most reflections?

Museum links

Take a look at the earliest animations using the optical toys in our Animation Gallery. The Praxinoscope uses multiple mirrors to create its short animated pictures. Can you see how many of the optical toys use mirrors?

Did you know...?

Scientists sometimes test animals to see if they recognise themselves by putting dirt on their faces before showing them their reflection in a mirror. They thought gorillas were failing this test until they realised gorillas get so embarrassed that they sneak off to wash in private!