

Vocabulary: Behavior of Light



Vocabulary

- reflection:*** When a wave (such as a light wave) hits a barrier and bounces back.
- The Law of Reflection:*** When a wave hits a barrier, the angle of incidence is equal to the angle of reflection.
- angle of incidence:*** The angle between the incident beam and the normal line.
- angle of reflection:*** The angle between the reflected beam and the normal line.
- incident beam:*** The beam of light traveling toward the mirror.
- reflected beam:*** The beam of light traveling away from the mirror.
- normal line:*** An imaginary line perpendicular to the mirror.
- refraction:*** The bending that takes place when light waves pass from one medium to another. This bending causes the illusion that objects passing from one medium to another are also bending.
- angle of refraction:*** The angle between the refracted beam and the normal line.
- dispersion:*** The effect, in which white light (visible light) separates into different colors because of differences in wave speed.
- diffraction:*** The bending and spreading of waves as they encounter an object or opening.
- electromagnetic wave:*** A wave produced by the vibration of an electrically charged particle and the magnetic field which surrounds it.
- electromagnetic spectrum:*** The entire range of electromagnetic waves: radio waves, microwaves, infrared radiation, visible light, ultraviolet, x-rays, and gamma rays.
- ROY G BIV:*** The acronym for the visible light spectrum:
Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet