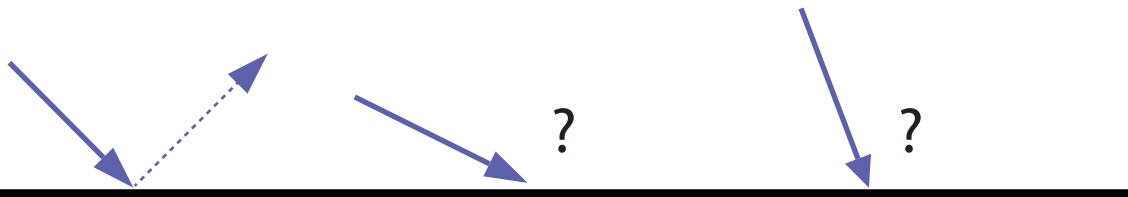


Reflection

Some objects do not produce their own light but do reflect it. Light does not come from within these objects. Light shines on the object and reflects, or bounces off of it. A mirror is an example of a reflective surface. It does not make its own light, but instead reflects it.

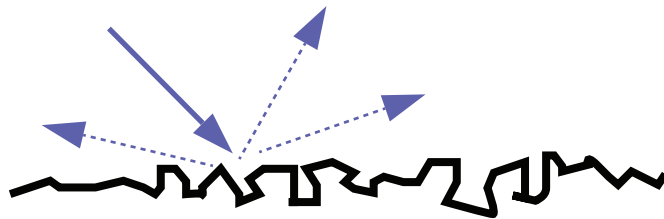
When light from an object is reflected by a surface, it changes direction. It bounces off the surface at the same angle as it hits it.

Use a ruler to draw the angle of reflection below:



Try This!

Smooth surfaces tend to reflect light well, while rough surfaces tend to scatter the light in many directions.



You can test this with a sheet of tin foil. Shine a light on it while it is flat and note what you see. Then crumple it. What is the difference?



Think About It!

Would you be able to see a mirror in a completely dark room? Why or why not? Use the back of this page to explain your answer.