

VIDYA BHAWAN BALIKA VIDYAPEETH

STUDY MATERIAL SCIENCE

CLASS-VI

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Teacher : Poonam Kumari

▸ Light shadows and reflection

Reflection Surfaces

We say light is reflected when it bounces off a surface. Reflection of light helps us to see most of the things around us.

Reflection of light by a surface depends on the nature of the surface. A rough and bumpy surface (also called an irregular surface) reflects a parallel beam of light incident upon it in different directions (Fig. 13.5). A good example of a rough surface is bark of a tree and blanket. This kind of reflection is called diffused reflection.

A smooth surface (a highly polished surface) reflects a parallel beam of light incident upon it in one direction. (Fig. 13.6). A good example of a smooth surface is a mirror. When you stand in front of a mirror, you can see yourself in the mirror. This is called your image.

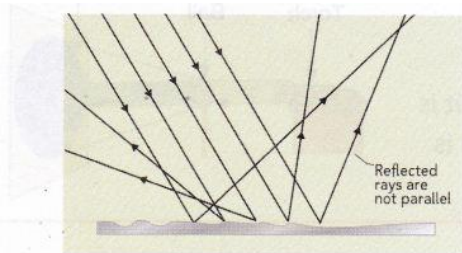


Fig. 13.5 Reflection from a rough surface

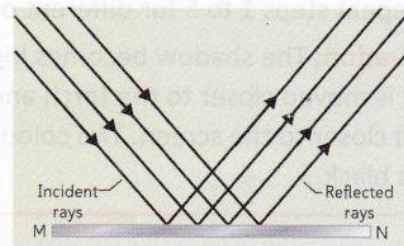


Fig. 13.6 Reflection from a smooth surface

A very interesting phenomenon occurs when an object forms an image by reflection. This is something all of us must have noticed while seeing ourselves in the mirror. When we lift our right hand, the image in the mirror appears to lift its left hand. This seeming left-right reversal is called lateral inversion.

An image is different from a shadow.