

Numeracy through Science module



Reflections in 2 mirrors (Post Primary)

Read it -- Try it safely -- Explore it further

A person looking into a mirror sees an image of themselves.

If 2 mirrors are placed at right angles as shown, how many images would you see?



Answer: 3 images.

One in front of you, one to the side and one in the corner of the mirrors.

In total, there are 4 ducks in the photograph - - the duck herself, and her 3 images.

Move the mirrors to make an angle of 60° and look to see how many ducks will be visible?

Angle between mirrors	90°	60°	45°	30°	
Number of ducks	4				

Move the mirrors to make an angle of 45° and record how many ducks are visible?

Extension activity

Predict how many ducks can be seen when the mirrors make an angle of 30°?

Test your prediction by experiment.

Can you give a formula for calculating how many ducks are seen for other angles, example 20°?