

DIY SCIENCE TIME

DIY KALEIDOSCOPE

Use mirrors and light to create amazing patterns with a DIY kaleidoscope!



MATERIALS

- Paper towel roll tube
- Mirrored paper
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Tape

EXPERIMENT

1. Cut the mirrored paper to a rectangle 4" by 11".
2. Fold the mirrored paper lengthwise in half and then half again to make four 1" by 11" sections.
3. Fold the mirrored paper into a prism shape. The fourth side should overlap onto itself. The paper's mirrored-side should be on the inside of the prism.
4. Slide the mirrored paper prism inside the paper towel roll and secure with tape.
5. Place your kaleidoscope over different objects to see how they appear! Twist and turn to see what happens!
6. Try drawing your own shapes or letters to create unique designs to view through your kaleidoscope.

WHY IT WORKS

A kaleidoscope works by reflecting light. Light travels in a straight line. When light bumps into an object it can be transmitted, absorbed, and/or reflected. When light hits the mirrors inside our kaleidoscope, it reflects off the shiny surface over and over, creating the fun patterns we see!