

Classroom Activities

10 Big Questions - Where will the nanoscience Revolution take us?

Make a prism to divide light

You will need:

- 3x pieces of clear plastic (try cutting up an old takeaway container)
- Plasticine or play dough
- Water
- Transparent tape
- Torch

Make a prism by taping the three pieces of clear plastics together, making a tight seal, to form a triangle.

On a flat surface, against a dark wall or other dark material, press one open end of the triangle into a chunk of play dough to form a base then fill the top open end with water.

Shine the torch so light rays go through the prism and onto the dark surface.

What happens to the light beams? What do we see on the wall? What is happening?

This classroom activity was suggested by Rachel Crees – PhD Student, in School of Chemistry & Physics, University of Adelaide.

* To find out more about the 10 Big Questions, go to:

<http://www.sciences.adelaide.edu.au/learning-teaching/10bq/>

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