**EXPLORING INTERACTIONS OF MATTER WITH LIGHT**

**This assignment supports the following Course Goals, Course Learning Outcomes, and Unit Objectives:**

* Identify the Properties of Electromagnetic Radiation (CLO3)

# PART 1: GETTING STARTED

* Download the Molecules and Light simulation:

<http://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/molecules-and-light>

Click on the play to run the simulator

* **Explore** all of the controls in the simulation for about 5 minutes. Click on different things and figure out what each one does. What are some of your observations?

# PART 2: “LIGHT” IN THE SIMULATION

Rank the electromagnetic radiation in the simulation in terms of energy, wavelength, and frequency.

* Energy

* Wavelength

* Frequency

# PART 3: INTERACTION OF LIGHT AND MATTER

* Examine how different photons in the simulation affect each molecule. Record your observations for each combination in a few descriptive words.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Microwave**  | **Infrared**  | **Visible Light**  | **Ultraviolet**  |
| **CO**  |   |   |   |   |
| **N2**  |   |   |   |   |
| **O2**  |   |   |   |   |
| **CO2**  |   |   |   |   |
| **H2O**  |   |   |   |   |
| **NO2**  |   |   |   |   |
| **O3**  |   |   |   |   |

* Which molecule(s) were **not** affected by **any** of the radiation in the sim?

**Why** might this be important? (Hint: think about what molecules are commonly found in our air and atmosphere)

* Examine your observations above and summarize the effects of each kind of radiation on the molecules in the simulation.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Microwave**  | **Infrared**  | **Visible Light**  | **Ultraviolet**  |
| **Effect(s) on** **Molecules**  |   |   |   |   |

#  PART 4. MOLECULES IN THE SIMULATION

The interaction of light with a molecule depends on characteristics of the molecule. The presence of nonbonding lone-pair electrons or bond dipoles are two examples. Identify at least 2 more characteristics.

# PART 5: GENERALIZED OBSERVATIONS

Return to your earlier classification and try to identify molecular characteristics associated with a particular interaction with electromagnetic radiation.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Radiation**  | **Which Molecules were affected?** Hint: Drawing Lewis structures may help.  | **General Rule to Predict Activity**  |
| **Microwave**  |   |   |
| **Infrared**  |   |   |
| **Visible**  |   |   |
| **Ultraviolet**  |   |   |

 **PART 6: PREDICTING REACTIVITY WITH LIGHT**

Consider the molecule assigned to your group and predict how it will interact with light based on your observations in the simulation with other molecules.

**Hint:** It may be helpful to use the “Molecule Polarity” simulations to explore the shape and polarity of your molecule: [http://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/moleculepolarity](http://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/molecule-polarity)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Assigned Molecule**  | **Microwave**  | **Infrared**  | **Visible**  | **Ultraviolet**  |
|      |       |   |   |   |

# Investigating critical angle and Total Internal Reflection using a PhET simulation

**STEP1**: Go to <https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/bending-light>, click on the  button. Choose ‘Intro’ and set it up so that it looks like the screenshot below. The material in the top half should be **water**, the material in the bottom half should be **air**, and the angle of incidence should be about 30°.

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**STEP 2**: Gradually increase the angle of incidence until *i* = 40°.

The cropped screenshot on the right should help.

*Read off and record the angles of reflection and refraction below*.

Angle of reflection = …………………°

Angle of refraction = …………………°



**Step 3**: Keep increasing the angle of incidence until the angle of refraction is as close to 90° as you can get it. (See the cropped screenshot below)

If you increase the angle of incidence further then the refracted ray will disappear.

The angle when this happens is called the “**critical angle**” for water.

*Record the critical angle for water here*:

 Critical angle for water = …………………°

### **Step 4**: Return the angle of incidence to 0° and change the material in the top half to glass. Repeat step 3 to find the critical angle for glass.

*Record it here*:

 Critical angle for glass = …………………°

### **Step 5**: Repeat the process to find the critical angle for material Mystery A and Mystery B.

Record the results here:

 Critical angle for Mystery A = …………………° Critical angle for Mystery B = …………………°

### **Step 6**: Put the critical angle results into the table below and complete the other columns using the instructions below the table.



 refractive index for Mystery A = ……………………………………… ; refractive index for Mystery B = –……………………………………

## **Task B**

### **Step 1**: Set the PhET sim up so that it looks like the screenshot below.

The material in the top half should be **water**, the material in the bottom half should be **air**, and the angle of incidence should be 10°. Catch the reflected ray with the intensity meter as shown in the screenshot.



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| angle of incidence / degrees  | intensity of reflected ray / %  |
| 10  | 2.19  |
| 20  |   |
| 30  |   |
| 35  |   |
| 40  |   |
| 45  |   |
| 50  |   |
| 55  |   |
| 60  |   |
| 70  |   |
| 80  |   |

### **Step 2**

Increase the angle of incidence by 10°, catch the reflected beam with the intensity meter to find out what % intensity the reflected beam has. Record your result in the table on the right.

**Step 3:** Complete the rest of the table by making measurements from the sim.

### **Step 4:** When the angle of incidence is greater than the critical angle, 100% of the light intensity is reflected. This is called **total internal reflection** because ***all*** the light is reflected.

**Use the data in the table** to suggest a value for the critical angle in water, and explain why you have chosen that angle.

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