

Cats' Eyes

The Science Behind the Experiment – A Guide for Adults

Cats and many other animals; particularly nocturnal animals, appear to have glowing eyes when light is shone at them. This is because there is a special reflective layer at the back of their eyeballs called the 'tapetum lucidum'. This helps animals to see better in low light as it works like a mirror to reflect the light back through the eyes, giving them a second chance to absorb the light.

Science Experiment

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Can you shine the torch at your model of a cat's eye?

What can you see?

Why did the light reflect back at you?

Try putting the felt in the bottom of the can and shining the torch on it. What did you see?