CHAPTER 5

Refraction: Light Changes Direction

BLM 2-17

Goal • Use this page to review how light bends when it travels from one material to another.

Introduction

When light moves from one medium (such as air) to another (such as water), the light bends. This is called refraction. The light bends because it changes speed when it moves between materials that have different densities.

What to Do

For each diagram, draw the normal at the point of contact. Measure the incident angle and the angle of refraction. Then complete the sentences using greater, less, toward, or away from.

2. Water to air 1. Air to glass air air water alass (a) The angle in air is (a) The angle in air is than the than the angle in the glass. angle in the water. (b) The light entering the air bends (b) The light entering the glass bends the normal. the normal. 3. Air to water 4. Transparent plastic to air air water plastic air (a) The angle in air is than the (a) The angle in air is than the angle in the plastic. angle in the water. (b) The light entering the air bends (b) The light entering the water bends the normal. the normal.