

Why Do Cats Eyes Glow?

Supplies

- Empty can
- Flashlight
- Scissors
- Rubber Band
- Black garbage bag

Time Required

- 5 minutes to prep
- 5 minute experiment



Steps

1. Cut a small square of the garbage bag
2. Cut an oval in the center of plastic, in the shape of the cat eye
3. Use the rubber band to hold the plastic on the top of the can opening
4. When in a dark room hold the can around chest height and have a partner shine the light into the can
5. What do you see?



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The Science Behind Why



When light enters the eye, it's supposed to hit a photoreceptor; a special cell in the brain that helps our brain see light as colours or night vision.

Sometimes the light doesn't hit the photoreceptor, so the tapetum lucidum (light reflecting layer on the eye) acts as a mirror to bounce it back for a second chance. That light reflecting layer also helps animals see better in the dark!

