**Vocabulary:** **Ray Tracing (Mirrors)**

dictionary2

**Vocabulary**

* Concave mirror – a mirror that curves inward.
  + The bowl of a spoon is an example of a concave mirror.
  + A concave mirror also is called a “converging mirror” because it causes *reflected* light rays to converge at a point.
* Convex mirror – a mirror that curves outward.
  + The back of a spoon is an example of a convex mirror.
  + A convex mirror also is called a “diverging mirror” because it causes reflected light rays to spread out.
* Focal point – the point at which parallel light rays converge after reflecting off a mirror.
  + The *focal length* of a mirror is the distance between the focal point and the middle of the mirror.
  + A convex mirror does not cause light to converge but it does have a focal point. The focal point of a convex mirror is the point from which originally parallel light rays appear to be emanating after reflecting off the mirror.
* Magnification – the ratio of image size to object size.
  + For example, if an object is 2.8 cm high and the image has a height of 5.6 cm, the magnification is 2.0.
* Real image – an image that forms where light rays converge.
  + If a screen is placed at the location of a real image, the image will be visible on the screen.
  + Real images are inverted and located on the same side of a mirror as the object.
* Reflect – to bounce back from a surface.
  + When electromagnetic waves strike a smooth, non-absorbing surface, they reflect from the surface at the same angle at which they struck the surface.
  + In most mirrors, light is reflected off a thin coating of polished aluminum beneath a sheet of protective glass.
* Virtual image – an image that is visible to an observer only when the observer looks into a mirror or lens.
  + No light rays are focused onto the virtual image. Therefore, a virtual image cannot be projected onto a screen as a real image could.
  + Virtual images are upright and located on the opposite side of a mirror from the object.