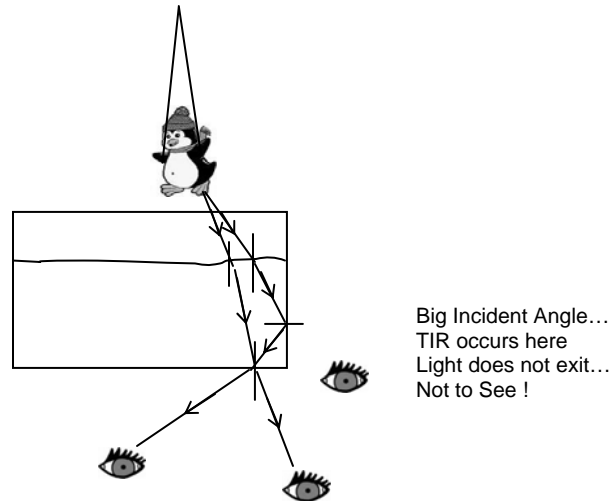
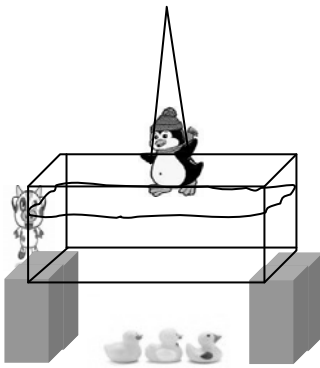


THE DEMONSTRATION CORNER

To See or Not to See – TIR is the Answer

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A fun example of total internal reflection can be created with an aquarium tank or similar transparent container filled with water. Students enjoy wandering around the tank with objects placed around on all sides including above and below. Sometimes you can see what you appear to be looking at and sometimes not. Students are challenged to draw ray diagrams to show why you cannot see certain objects but can unexpectedly see others from certain angles. One example is shown here. It's definitely a good seed for discussion. Probably a good coffee table display for your parties too.



Instead of seeing what's behind
this side, see TIR of the Penguin...
To See something unexpected!

Incident Angle much
smaller here. No
TIR... To See!

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Submissions describing demonstrations will be gladly received by the column editor.
