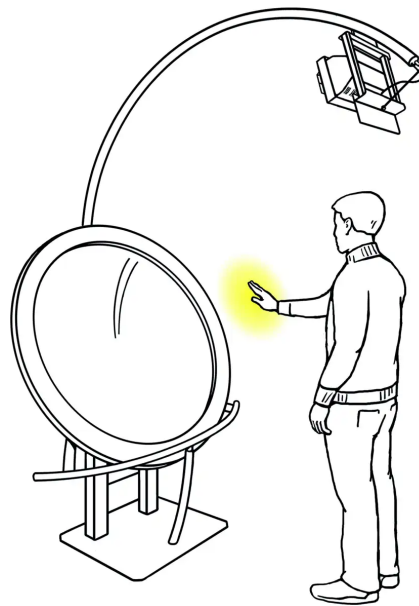


Hot spot

Where do you get really warm in front of the mirror?



Stand in front of the curved mirror.

Move slowly towards and away from the mirror.

Can you feel any change as you move?

In a particular area you will feel heat. You can see red light being reflected from the mirror onto your hand.

The heat you feel is a kind of radiation, similar to light. The curved mirror focusses the heat radiation in the same way that a lens focusses light, and concentrates the energy in a small area, the focal plane.

This technique is used in tropical countries for cooking: in a solar oven a curved mirror focusses the Sun's energy onto a cooking pot.