

Unexpected Properties



Summary

“Unexpected Properties” is an engaging and interactive component featured in the *Intro to Nanotechnology* exhibit package that demonstrates how materials at the nanoscale can have very unexpected properties.

Quantum Dots

The tabletop interactive, Quantum Dots, focuses on the property of color and how a material’s color may change when brought down to the nanoscale. Visitors alter the size of a magnified quantum dot and watch the light that it emits shift from red to blue as it shrinks to a fraction of a nanometer. The copy panel and side monitors explain how unexpected properties are being used in real-world applications of quantum dots and nanoparticles, from medical imaging to consumer goods.

This exhibit component consists of one copy panel, the Quantum Dots interactive, and a flat-screen monitor slideshow that can be updated to keep the exhibit content current and relevant. Like all of the exhibit components in the *Intro* package, headphone listening stations with both English and Spanish audio description labels are included. These audio labels serve two functions—to explain the “Big Idea” content of the exhibit and to provide illustrative descriptions of the interactive experience.

Learning Goal

- Super small nanoparticles can have very unexpected properties.

Exhibit Details

Audience: All ages

Exhibit Format: Stand-Alone Exhibit Component
Part of *Introduction to Nanotechnology* package

Exhibit Dimensions: 65 ½”w x 32 ½”d x 78”h