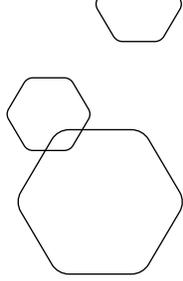


A Golden Mirror

Some telescopes have gold-coated mirrors.



Gold is particularly good at reflecting infrared light. Gold coating makes the James Webb Space Telescope's mirrors more efficient.

The shiny gold mirror of the James Webb Space Telescope is both beautiful and scientifically important.

Scientists designed the Webb telescope's instruments to study electromagnetic energy in the infrared range, and gold is very efficient at reflecting infrared light. By collecting light and other data more efficiently, scientists will be able to capture images from even further out into the universe. Scientists plan to use this new space telescope to explore everything from the light emitted by galaxies forming out of the Big Bang, to the atmospheres of Earth-like planets capable of supporting life, to the development of our own solar system.

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[jwst.nasa.gov/mirrors.html](https://www.nasa.gov/jwst/mirrors.html)



Scientists will use the James Webb Space Telescope to study distant galaxies.