

CONCEPTUAL EXAMPLE 23-10

View up from under water. Describe

what a person would see who looked up at the world from beneath the perfectly smooth surface of a lake or swimming pool.

RESPONSE For an air–water interface, the critical angle is given by

$$\sin \theta_C = \frac{1.00}{1.33} = 0.750.$$

Therefore, $\theta_C = 49^\circ$. Thus the person would see the outside world compressed into a circle whose edge makes a 49° angle with the vertical. Beyond this angle, the person would see reflections from the sides and bottom of the lake or pool (Fig. 23-27).

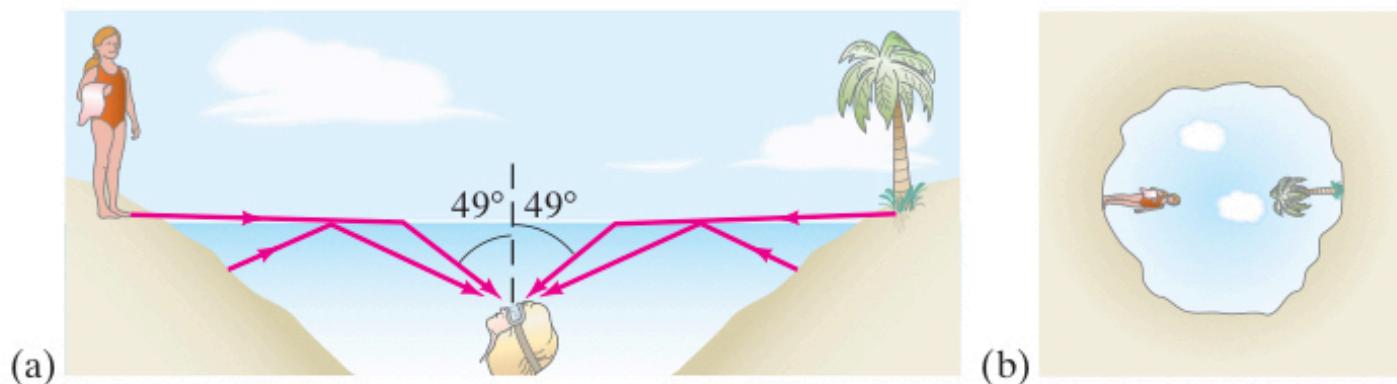


FIGURE 23-27 (a) Light rays entering submerged person's eye, and (b) view looking upward from beneath the water (the surface of the water must be very smooth). Example 23-10.