Proposal for MIRROR Emoji

Date: February 21st, 2019
Emoji Name: Mirror
Reference Emoji: HAMBURGER, SCISSORS, GOBLIN
Sort location: Category: Household
We suggest that the MIRROR emoji appear after RAZOR, as it implies grooming.

Credit: LaTurbo Avedon. Free for use in conjunction with this proposal.

Abstract

This proposal requests the addition of MIRROR to the Unicode emoji character library.

The MIRROR, an object that reflects light in such a way that preserves many or most of
the detailed physical characteristics of the original light, represents a ubiquitous
material, human tool and a symbol for the concept of “reflection.” The proposed emoji
designs for MIRROR is based on classic wall and handheld mirrors. Although the
physical object is a universal tool found in households worldwide, we expect the
MIRROR emoji to be used in a variety of non-literal ways as well.

We do not have a strong position on the visual representation of MIRROR, but believe it
should exist in some form to fill semantic gaps inside the emoji set.

Images

We are offering six versions of a MIRROR emoji, but we have no preference as to which
one is adopted.
Introduction

It would be difficult to overstate the global prominence of the mirror, a reflective material that can be found in many forms. The first use of mirrors by humans were probably pools of still water or water collected in a vessel.

The earliest manufactured mirrors were pieces of polished stone such as obsidian, a naturally occurring volcanic glass. In modern times, the mirror substrate is shaped, polished and cleaned, and is then coated. Glass mirrors are most often coated with silver or aluminium, implemented by a series of coatings. Mirrors are most commonly used for personal grooming, safety and easier viewing (e.g. rear-view mirrors),
televisions, projectors, telescopes, solar power, architecture, and entertainment (disco balls, hall of mirrors, kaleidoscopes, etc).\footnote{https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mirror}

Mirrors in the virtual world have already been subject to significant critical theory. Tom Boellstorff, an anthropologist, writing of time spent in the online virtual world Second Life, was quick to remark about the superfluous replication of corporeal fixtures in virtual environments. Things like plumbing, refrigeration and mirrors do not serve a real purpose outside of emulating physical spaces as we know them. Still, mirrors would hang inside of cyber homes and residences, although these mirrors could not be programmed to fully reflect the spaces they were placed in. Scripts and other kluges are often used to suggest reflection in virtual mirrors and other reflective objects, but the mirror as we know it is sure to take on new forms and meanings as we integrate ourselves more closely with the virtual. Our early attempts to render mirrors represent a tiny attempt by users to carry over an important symbol from one world of existence to another.
As a non-literal symbol, we expect the MIRROR emoji would be used to imply that communication is being bounced back like a reflection, or as a gender-neutral cosmetic symbol, or to accompany a “mirror selfie”, which is a very common type of social media image.

Names

CLDR short name
Recommended name: mirror

CLDR keywords
Recommended keywords: reflection | reflector | speculum

Selection Factors Inclusion

A. Compatibility

While there have been many requests for a MIRROR emoji, most popular messaging services have not included a mirror emoji yet. This proposal seeks to rectify that.
B. Expected Usage Level

B1. Frequency

The following Google Trends data shows that usage of the term "mirror" has more results than reference emoji such as “hamburger” and “scissors” and “goblin” in both web and image search:
Google Ngram also demonstrates the historic strength of “mirror” orders of magnitude above “hamburger”, “goblin” and “scissors”:

In a regular Google Search, “mirror” delivers many more results than “hamburger”, “goblin” and “scissors”:
“Mirror” also tops all three reference emoji in a regular Bing Search:
Wikipedia Pageviews Analysis shows that “mirror” is commensurate with all three reference emoji as well:
B2. Multiple Usages

We expect the MIRROR emoji would be used in several non-literal ways including:

- Getting ready, a gender-neutral cosmetic symbol.
- Reflection, bouncing the communication back to the sender.
- Mirror selfies, to accompany a very common type of social media image.
- Vanity, to communicate that you’re looking at yourself.

B3. Use in Sequences

Below are examples of the MIRROR emoji as a frame or modifier:

1. Getting ready: “hold on I’m still getting ready 🏡”

2. Reflection: “uhh… that’s hypocritical 🏡”

3. Mirror selfie: “I love 🏡s”

4. Vanity: “somebody looks good today 🏡”

C. Image Distinctiveness

The existing emoji most similar in appearance is the FOG emoji (🌫), and perhaps also the COMPUTER DISC (💻) due to it’s reflective surface. However, we believe that neither of these would be confused with the MIRROR emoji.

D. Completeness

The MIRROR would be a welcome addition to the existing set of cosmetic and household objects.
E. Frequently Requested

Below is a sample of requests for a MIRROR emoji on Twitter:
Rosie @dopaminegcf · 26 Sep 2015
MIRROR "INSERT MIRROR EMOJI HERE BECAUSE I DONT HAVE ONE 😂 OR I CANT FIND IT 😂"

NAIB @Eeeyour · 31 May 2018
Twitter is incomplete without a "mirror" emoji coz' replying to some tweets I really need one

Iron Glad Larrie 333 @1D_Beards · 28 Feb 2015
why there's no mirror emoji 🕒😍😢

off the road's post on Vine
why there's no mirror emoji
View on Vine
Mdee Da Saboteur @Mdee107 · 29 Dec 2018
Replying to @RachelleTob @BigDaddyLiberty
Does Twitter have a mirror emoji? 😘🤔

youngbich @youngbich1 · 28 Dec 2018
Replying to @Sosa_RL
Wait where's the mirror emoji

queen tea @ARCTICSPADES · 26 Dec 2018
🎉🎉🎉🎉
mirror emoji 🎉🎉🎉

soft hannah @vintagemiss · 23 Oct 2018
Replying to @CrystaRose_ @twokissys
yeah i looked supper hard but honestly could not see a mirror emoji

André Ouellette @AndreKrat · 20 Oct 2018
Day 20 - Breakable. 🔒🔍 (Because there isn’t a haunted mirror emoji)
#Inktober #notinktober
Elsie Godwin @ELSiEiSY · 19 Oct 2018
There should be a mirror emoji. So when anyone is being a hypocrite, I can just send the emoji and face front. No time for plenty talk 😂😂😂

DeeDee Dynamite the TMZ of Soaps @TMZDeeDee · 10 Jul 2018
Where is the trash emoji? And the mirror emoji so Hope can take a look in one because Rafe is t's knight in shining armor, either...😊 #Days

KIMBERLY @4KimmieBee
First emoji that comes to mind when you see this scene
#days

Kyle David Bennett @kyle_d_bennett · 14 Jun 2018
Soooo, Calvinists (rightly) talk a lot about the third use of the law. But nowadays perhaps we need to remember that there’s a first use of the law.

<<insert mirror emoji>>

ABC News Politics @ABCPolitics
Asked about biblical justification for separating children from parents, Press Sec. Sanders says, "It is very biblical to enforce the law." abcn.ws/2JCxbcC

Lord A Leaping Graydon @LordGraydon · 22 Mar 2018
Repying to @DailyDex @cat_binky and 34 others
Mine are •• 🐾 😘 🐻 🐱. I can only do 5 Dex @DailyDex I can not find a mirror emoji 😂😂😂😂😂😂
I nominate @clawdiathecat @pawshathecat @PincyCat @JoyOfCats @TobiasandJasper @MisterShinto @TheRealOtisFuzz @Mellow_Fello @JoviLifer @Tipsy_Gypsy @PJSM206
cindigreendown @cindigreendown · 9 Jul 2017

Need a mirror emoji

Kammy @kammypup · 3 Oct 2018

Replying to @wobblesbabbles

There’s only one person you know that can fix it...

... Hold on... 😐
...

Just a minute...

Dang, there’s no "mirror" emoji I can find...

Just imagine I did a mirror emoji and held it up for you...

Maybe you could use the reflective surface of these sunglasses? 👀
pumpkin @agraay17 · 1 Jan 2018
Is there a mirror emoji

Eric Lesh @EDLesh · 29 Mar 2017
When will they develop a 'mirror' emoji to share with the dark money thugs at @judicialnetwork?

Ashley Killough @KilloughCNN
Judicial Crisis Networks calls Schumer et al "glorified thugs" ahead of Schumer presser on dark money re: Gorsuch
bette depravis @veroniraptor · 17 Nov 2016
concept: mirror emoji that hooks up to your front camera to act like a tiny mirror

PVRIS Daily @PVRISdaily · 17 Jul 2016
Replying to @PVRISdaily
There's no mirror emoji, disappointed.

isa @isabuur · 12 Jun 2016
Is there a mirror emoji and what does it/ would it look like

Tim Watts MP @TimWattsMP · 29 May 2016
So I can't find a mirror emoji.
Goosey Mane @Spooky_Goose · 13 May 2016
💰 Why isn't there a mirror emoji 🌟

Matt Johnson @mrjumd · 11 Apr 2016
This presentation IS gonna be dope #transingCMU 📸 (sorry, no mirror emoji)
Andy Richter @AndyRichter · 28 Apr 2015
Replying to @JennyPentland
@JennyPentland is there a mirror emoji to bounce it right back at you?

Nellie Killian 🌟 @nelliekillian · 22 Apr 2015
There should be a mirror emoji & one of a person looking in a mirror. Also: an orchestra conductor. Thought about it & those are the 3 I need

@yourboyhugo · 28 Feb 2015
why there's no mirror emoji (Vine by On The Road Again)
vine.co/v/02PEqrYgzLg

MATT KING 🌟 @MattrKing · 26 Feb 2015
dayum somebody is lookin' beautiful today

[p]mirror emoji[/p]

@paigepieמד @paigemackenzie › 21 Feb 2015
Hate me if you must, but the Californians SNL skits always make me laugh. (where's the mirror emoji)
Crystal Fitzgerald @thequeenofcode_ · 5 Jan 2015
Self Love. 😘❤️ ))) (there’s no mirror emoji??!!) #selflove #beautyandthebay #badassbeautym mantra instagram.com/p/x0Vjmjdw/

Danielle @danilyle · 30 Dec 2014
There’s no mirror emoji and yet there’s this french horn 🎷️

5sos/hv @pearlhemmingz · 17 Dec 2014
Replying to @__raaaaven
@__raaaaven vain vain vain (WHY IS THERE NO MIRROR EMOJI)

Michael Koziarski @nkoz · 29 Nov 2014
Replying to @schezuan
@schezuan there’s no mirror emoji

lila @lialaaa_c · 8 Oct 2014
I want a mirror emoji
Selection Factors Exclusion

F. Overly Specific

The mirror is a universal concept found frequently throughout human life.

G. Open Ended

There would be no obvious vacancies in either cosmetics or objects with the addition of the mirror emoji.

H. Already Representable

There are no emoji that specifically represent a mirror or reflection. The closest in one sense would be the SELFIE emoji (🤳), but only for that potential use of MIRROR emoji.

I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

The mirror cannot be trademarked because it is a universal object/idea.

J. Transient

Mirrors will never cease to exist in some form.

K. Faulty Comparison
There is nothing to compare to the mirror.

**Sort location**
Category: symbol

We suggest that the MIRROR emoji appear among the TELESCOPE and MICROSCOPE in the objects section.

**Other Information**

N/A

**Character Properties**
The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.
General Category: So
Canonical Combining Class: 0
Bidirectional Class: ON
Decomposition Type: Decomposition Mapping:
Numeric Type:
Numeric Value:
Bidirectional Mirrored: N
Unicode 1 Name:
ISO Comment:
Simple Uppercase Mapping: Simple Lowercase Mapping: Simple Titlecase Mapping:

**Author Bios**

Theo Schear ([tscheear@gmail.com](mailto:tscheear@gmail.com)) is a vain loser who often stares into the mirror pondering whether his reflection could be represented by a cute symbol on his device.

LaTurbo Avedon ([laturboavedon@gmail.com](mailto:laturboavedon@gmail.com)) is a digital artist and avatar, known for their contributions to the world of virtual art and Simulism. While a virtual mirror can't reveal the person that uses it as an emoji, Avedon proposes the emoji as a recognizable and universal symbol of reflection.

Jennifer 8. Lee ([jenny@emojination.org](mailto:jenny@emojination.org)) is a big fan of the line “Mirror, mirror on the wall” and was shocked to discover that mirror wasn’t already an emoji.