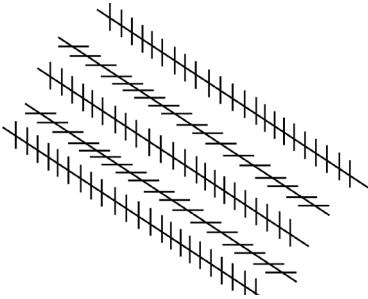


Optical Illusions and Eye Tricks

This activity was created by Alora.

What a lot of people don't know is that a lot of "seeing" is done by the brain! The optic nerve, which is responsible for sending the light signals from the retina to the brain, connects to the occipital lobe. This is known as the visual cortex found at the back of the head. Our brain can do a lot of amazing things with the visual information it receives and that's how we produce optical illusions!

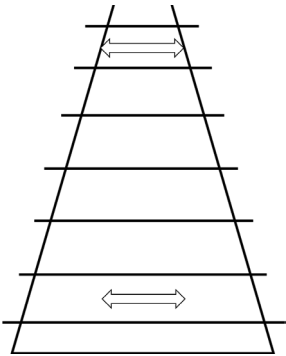


ZOLLNER ILLUSION

Take a look at the picture to the left. Do you think the lines will eventually converge / cross over as they continue out of the frame?

YES NO

After you make your prediction, take a look at the next page!

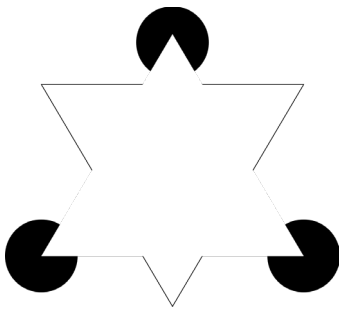


PONZO ILLUSION

Take a look at the picture to the left. Which arrow looks bigger?

TOP BOTTOM NEITHER

After you make your prediction, check the next page to see what's happening!



KANIZSA TRIANGLE ILLUSION

Describe and count the shapes you see in this picture:

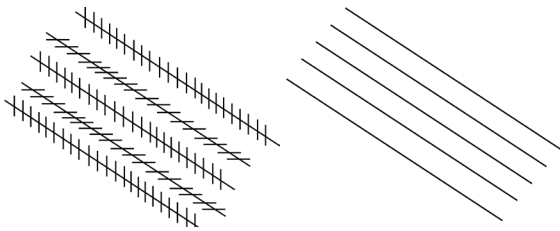
TROXLER'S EFFECT

In order for this effect to take place, stare at the centre cross on the image on the next page. What happens when you do this for a few moments?

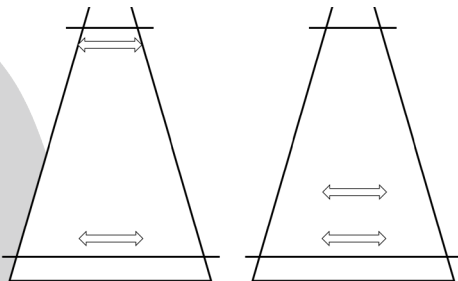


WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?

ZOLLNER ILLUSION



Our perception of the long lines is heavily influenced by the direction of those short lines. The picture on the right is the same image as the one on the left, but without the short lines added on. Because the short lines are perfectly vertical or horizontal, it gives us the illusion that the long parallel lines will eventually collide as well.



PONZO ILLUSION

Typically people guess that the top arrow is larger. Our brain likes to make assumptions based on context. In this case, the space at the top is narrower, which makes the arrow appear larger at the top. In the second picture, we can actually see that the arrows are the same size!

KANIZSA TRIANGLE ILLUSION

Many people will describe seeing a white triangle located in the middle of the image when in reality, there's simply an empty space. This illusion is an example of the Law of Closure. This law explains that people tend to group things together in order to create a cohesive picture, even when gaps in the image are present.

TROXLER'S EFFECT

When you stare at the centre cross without blinking for long enough, the blurry figure around it should begin to disappear! This experiment is a great example of how our brain adapts to **sensory stimuli**. Sensory stimuli are basically just what we see or what's happening around us. Our brain actually stops responding to unchanging stimuli if it's categorized as unimportant. This causes the image to disappear from our consciousness!