

Make Your Own Optical Illusions

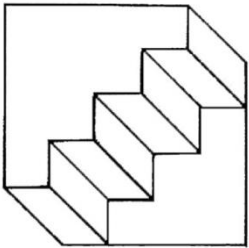
Summary:

Have you ever seen an optical illusion? Just as people learn how to read, they can learn how to make sense out of the rays of light that hit the eyes. The brain learns "rules" of seeing; for example, the farther things are from you, the smaller they appear. But when an object or drawing breaks the rules, or when it could be interpreted in different ways, your brain tends to apply the "rules" and may give you wrong information or one perception of the information that makes most sense.

In this activity:

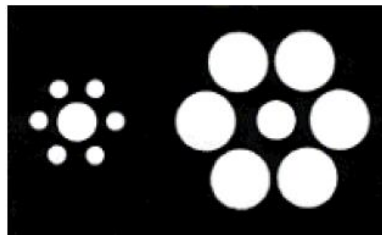
- To understand that optical illusions are made by our brain trying to make sense of the information that our eyes see.
- Look at optical illusions and recognize why they appear the way they do.
- Make an optical illusion and describe how it works.

Optical Illusion 1: What do you see in the picture below? This is the example optical illusion so the answer will be posted below the picture. However, for the next 3 optical illusions the answer will be posted at the end of the activity. What did you see? Are the stairs on the floor or on the ceiling?



Answer 1: Both perceptions are valid, but it is more likely that you saw the stairs as on the floor because you expect them to be there.

Optical illusion 2: Look carefully at both flowers. Are the centers in both flowers the same size?



Optical Illusion 3: What do you see in the picture below?

