

Science Club: Eyes

We looked at our own eyes to find our pupil (the hole that lets the light in) and the iris (the muscle that changes the size of the pupil), and watched our pupil change size.

We watched a dissection of a real cow's eye to see the pupil, iris and the lens, then experimented with lenses to see how the lens of the eye makes an image (the lens bends the light to make an upside down image on the back of the eye).

We looked at the back of the cow's eye and saw the shiny tapetum, and the blind spot where the optic nerve emerges.

We looked for our own blind spot using the circle and cross symbols on the bottom of this sheet: cover your right eye and hold this paper at arm's length, with your nose centred between the spot and the cross. Stare at the cross, then slowly move the paper towards you. Keep staring at the cross; keep your nose centred. When the paper is about 30cm away from your face, the spot disappears, as the spot is over the blind spot of your left eye. This is a tricky activity - keep trying.

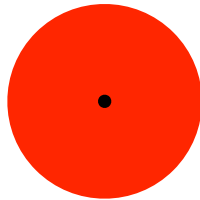
Lastly, we played with how our eyes see colour.

Stare at the black spot in the centre of this red circle in bright light for 15 seconds.

Then slowly move the paper away from you while still staring at the black dot.

What new colour appears around the red circle?

By staring at one colour, some colour receptors in our eye get tired and the other more active receptors cause the inverse colour to appear over white areas. Draw your own simple shapes with bold colours and play with colour perception.



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