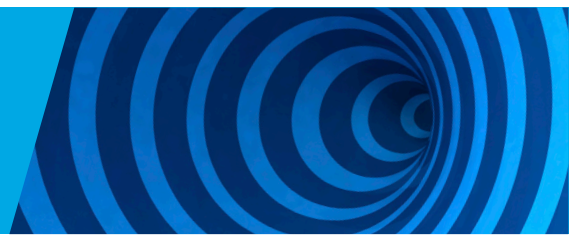


CURIOSITY AT HOME

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE



Take a look at these optical illusions and discover the role your brain plays in interpreting sensory input!

MATERIALS

Illustrations:

- ABC/12 13 14
- old/young woman
- duck/rabbit



PROCEDURE

- Look at illustrations and share what you see.
- Can each participant see more than one image in each picture. If not, try to point out some features of each interpretation.
- Discuss the role your brain plays in interpreting what you see with your eyes.

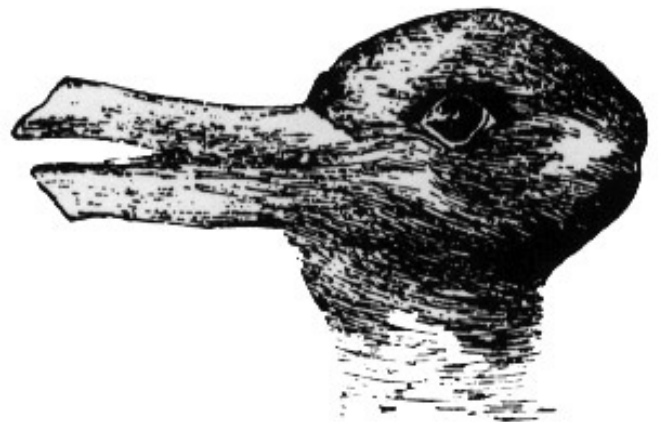
TRY THIS

Create ambiguous illustrations of your own.

DID YOU KNOW

From birth on, sensory stimuli (what we see, hear, etc.) begin to create patterns in our brain tissue. These mental patterns are useful because they help us recognize familiar objects or circumstances. We rely on pattern thinking constantly without even being aware of it—it's how we know that a cat is a cat, and not a camel.

When we observe things with our eyes, our brains make the most sensible judgment of what we are observing. When we see pictures with pieces missing, it is the pattern thinking in our brains that fills in the gaps. We may not see the same illusions as others because we have different previous experiences, which may lead to different pattern recognition.



Show us how you're being curious! Share your results with us.

PACIFIC
SCIENCE
CENTER

