

H A N D O U T

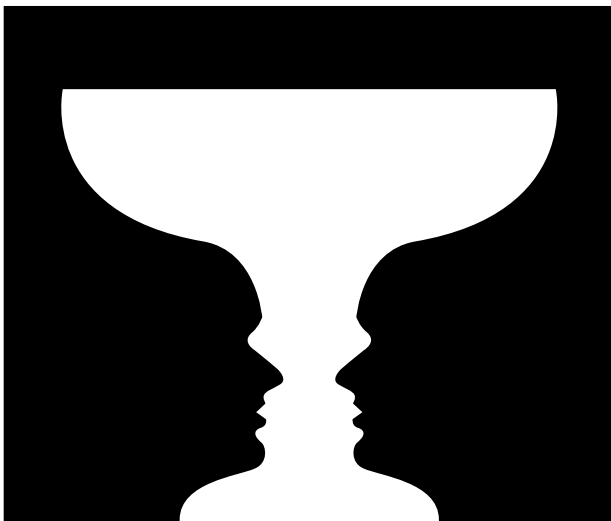
Optical Illusions

Sometimes your eyes play tricks on you. The pictures on this page are called “optical illusions.”

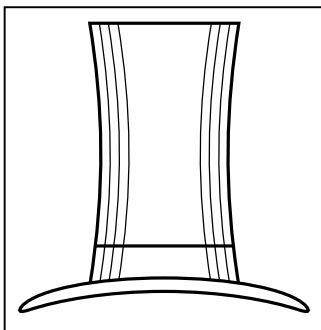
Optical means vision. An illusion is something that isn't what it seems to be. An optical illusion is something that plays tricks on your vision. Optical illusions teach us about how the eye and brain work together to create vision. In our everyday three-dimensional (3-D) world, our brain gets clues about depth, shading, lighting, and position to help us interpret what our eyes see. But when we look at two-dimensional (2-D) images that lack some of these clues, the brain can be fooled.

Can you figure out these optical illusions?

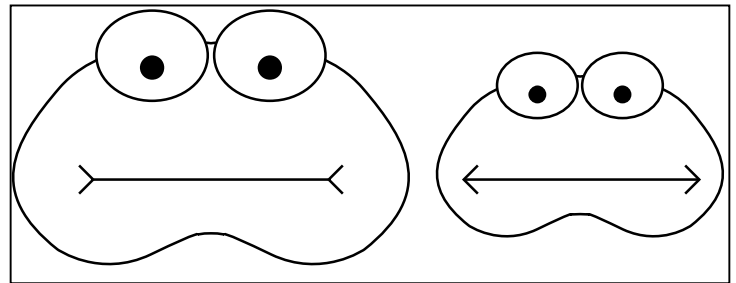
Photocopy from original for best quality.



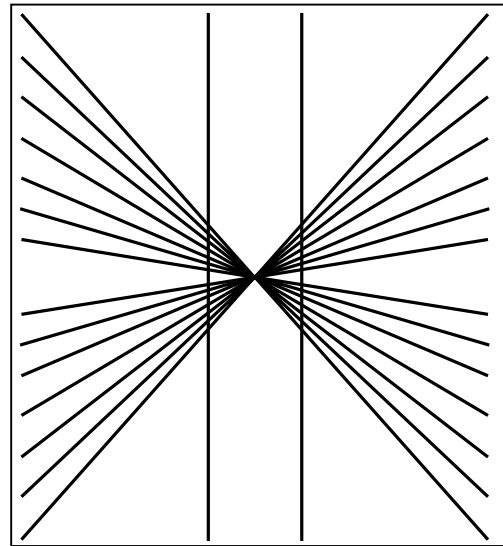
1. Is this a picture of a vase? Or two faces looking at each other? Do you see both?



3. Is the hat taller than it is wide?



2. Which frog has a bigger mouth? Are you sure? Measure to find out.



4. Are the up and down lines straight or bent? Use a ruler to check.