

OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

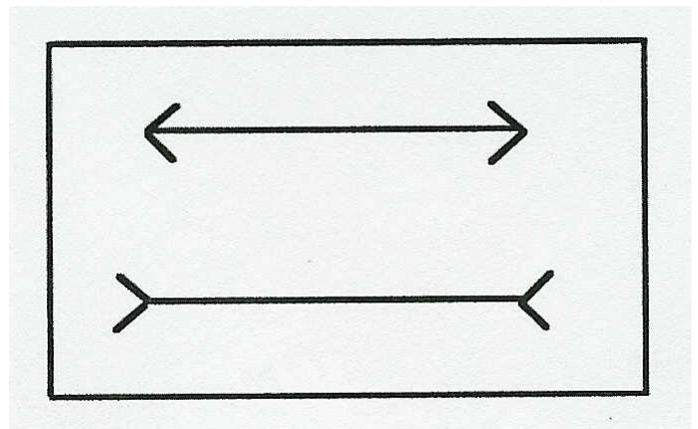
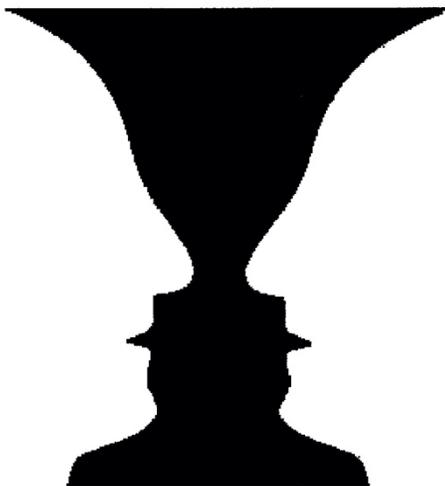
This is something you can use when you are talking about scientific skills. Specifically, this deals with the importance of making careful observations.

Make a blow-up of each of the two pictures below and transfer each of them to separate piece of poster board or a transparency. You may also put one picture on each side of the poster board or make one transparency of each.

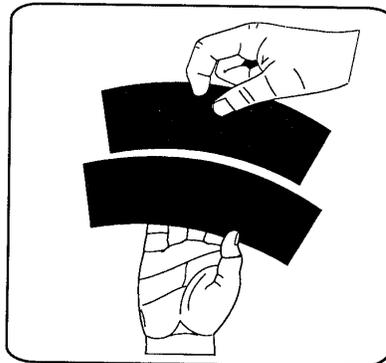
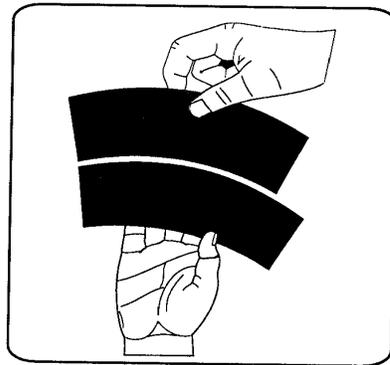
Talk to the students about the importance of making careful observations and that our eyes can sometimes be fooled if we aren't careful.

Show the first picture (the two faces drawing) and ask the students what they see? Some may see two faces looking at one another, others will say it is a vase or trophy etc. Tell them the secret to the illusion is that it is two pictures in one. If you look at the black of the picture you will see a vase or trophy. If you look at the white part of the picture you will see a side view of two people looking at each other. Depending on what you look at you see something entirely different. It's an optical illusion. It fools or tricks the eyes, your optic nerves.

Show the picture of the arrows. Ask which arrow is longer the top or the bottom? Who votes for the top? Who votes for the bottom? Who votes that they are the same length? Actually, they are the same length. It fools the eyes because of the arrows on the ends of the lines. It's an optical illusion.



Here is one more optical illusion to drive home the point. Cut out the pictures of the fish on the next page. Color each a different color and laminate them. Hold the pictures so one fish is directly above the other. Whichever fish is on the bottom will always appear longer than the one above even though they are the same length. The difference is really exaggerated if you line up one edge of each boomerang. (see pictures below) To show them equal simply stack one on top of the other and show both sides indicating that each piece is exactly the same. This can also be used to talk about comparing and contrasting. How are the images alike and how are they different. If you make the boomerangs without the fish and just make them with white card stock which you laminate.. You can write a different term on each one so as to compare two different components of a topic. For example which is more important “reusing” or “recycling”? You can make either one look more important by its size or you can show that they really are equally important.



Cut around the outside of each shape. Color each fish a different color. The one you hold above the other will appear smaller, even though they are the same size. IT'S AN ILLUSION!

