

Microbe Magic Experiments

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Eyes and sight – Your blind spot

Did you know that you (and everyone else) have a blind spot in their eye? This is the place on your retina where your optic nerve leaves your eye. There are no photoreceptors (receptors that sense light) so you can't see anything!

What you will need

Paper

Pencil

Ruler

Your eyes!

What to do:

- Draw a small circle (filled in) on the left hand side of a piece of paper.
 - On the right, draw a cross (filled in) about 6 – 8 inches away in a straight line.
- You should have a drawing that looks something like this:



- Hold the paper about 20 inches away from your eyes.
- Close your right eye and look at the cross with your left eye.
- Very slowly, bring the piece of paper towards you. Remember to keep your right eye closed and keep looking at the cross with your left eye.
- At a certain distance (everyone is different), the dot will disappear – you won't be able to see it anymore! This is your blind spot!
- You can repeat the experiment and make the cross disappear. Just close your left eye, stare at the circle, move the paper towards you and watch the cross disappear!
- You can measure the distance at which your blind spot disappears in both eyes using your ruler (just remember to be careful and don't poke yourself in the eye!).