

**ZOOMsci
Activities**

Try It Out

**ZOOMon:
Change One
Variable**

**Share Your
Results**

**Keep
ZOOMing**

OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

Afterimage



Draw a picture, stare at it, and see a “ghostly” afterimage.

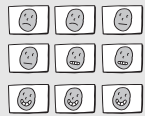
- Color(s) of your drawing
- Length of time you stare

- What happened when you stared for a short or long time?
- Why do different colors make different afterimages?

Learn more about how you see and persistence of vision:

- **Neuroscience for Kids Vision Experiments**
faculty.washington.edu/chudler/chvision.html
- **Flip Sticks**
http://www.exploratorium.edu/science_explorer/flipstick.html
- **The Joy of Visual Perception: A Web Book**
www.yorku.ca/eye/

Flip Book



Make separate pictures blend into a moving picture.

- Speed at which you flip the pictures
- Type of pictures
- The number of pages

- What object did you try to make look like it’s moving?
- What made the illusion work?
- How can you improve the illusion?

Magic Disc



Attach two cups with tape, spin them, and see a “magic” ball.

- Speed at which you spin the cups
- Color or pattern on the tape

- What did you see when you used different colors and patterns?
- What did you see when it spun quickly or slowly? Why?

Phenakistoscope



Spin separate pictures to make a moving picture.

- Speed at which you spin the pictures
- The pictures

- What illusion did you try to make?
- Describe how it works.

Thaumatrope*



Make two separate pictures blend into one.

- Speed at which you switch the pictures
- The pictures

- What pictures did you draw?
- Why did you see the two pictures blend into one?

* indicates Spanish version available



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