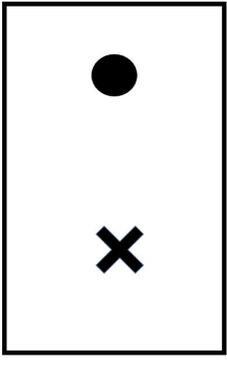
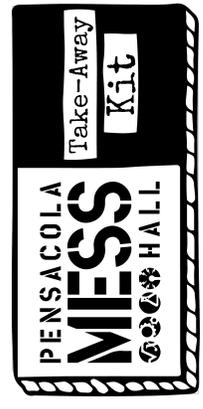


Hold the card out at eye level about an arm's length away. Make sure that the X is on the right.



Mark a dot and an X on the paper as shown.

STEP 1:



Blind Spot

Materials

Sheet of paper
Pencil

fold

About the Pensacola MESS Hall

The Pensacola MESS Hall is a hands on science center in downtown Pensacola. Visitors “mess around” with math, engineering, science and stuff.

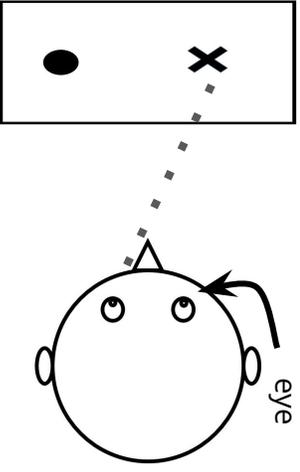
Check our website for hours, admission, and program information. Free admission passes available at West Florida Public Library.

www.pensacolamesshall.org
877-YES-MESS

116 N Tarragona St. Pensacola

STEP 2:

Close your right eye. Look at the X with your left eye. Notice that you can also see the dot. **Slowly** bring the card toward you, looking at the X, until the dot seems to disappear.



Close this eye

fold

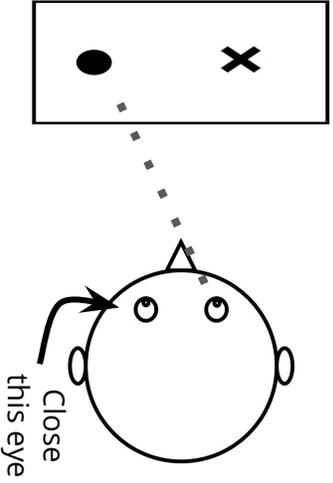
What's Going On

The point at which the dot and X disappear is your blind spot.

The optic nerve carries messages from your eye to your brain. This bundle of nerve fibers passes through one spot on the light sensitive lining, or retina, of your eye. In this spot, your eye's retina has no light receptors. When you hold the card so that the light from the dot falls on this spot, you cannot see the dot.

STEP 3:

Look at the dot with your left eye closed. This time the X should disappear as you bring the card slowly toward your face.



Close this eye

fold

Mess Around

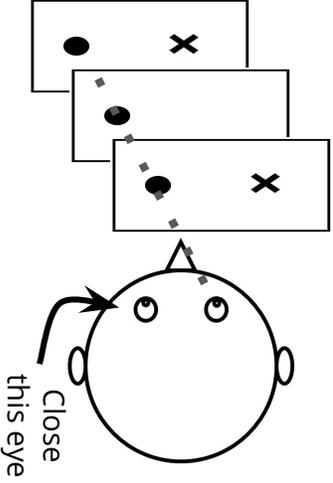
Try the activity again, this time rotating the card so that the dot and X are not directly across from each other. Are the results the same?

Draw a straight line all the way across the card, through the center of the dot and X. Try the experiment again. What happens to the dot and X?

Flip the card over, drawing the dot and X closer together. What do you notice?

STEP 4:

Repeat with each eye and discover where the dot or X reappears.



Close this eye