

Module 3: Sensation and Perception

Topic 2 Extend Your Learning: Perception Activity Guide

Challenge yourself to learn more by doing a bit of independent research about perception. See if you can discover answers to the below reflections and questions.

Monocular Depth Cues

Monocular depth cues can create a three-dimensional sense of the world by using just one eye. *Relative size* is one type of monocular depth cue. The picture below, *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* (1884-86), is by Georges Seurat. The painter used relative size to indicate who in the image is close and who is farther away. You likely did not assume some people were very short, while others were very tall.



1. Using the Internet, find another painting where an artist used relative size to provide viewers with the perception of various depths. Then, describe what you see in the painting.
2. What is the difference between monocular depth cues and binocular depth cues?

Perceptual Constancy

Perceptual constancy refers to a person's ability to perceive a familiar object as having a set shape, size, brightness, or color, regardless of changes to the position in which he or she observes an object. Try this out by doing a quick experiment with a friend or family member.

3. Go into a room filled with people. See if you recognize a friend or family member's face, regardless of whether the angle, size, or lighting is different from the last time you saw him or her.

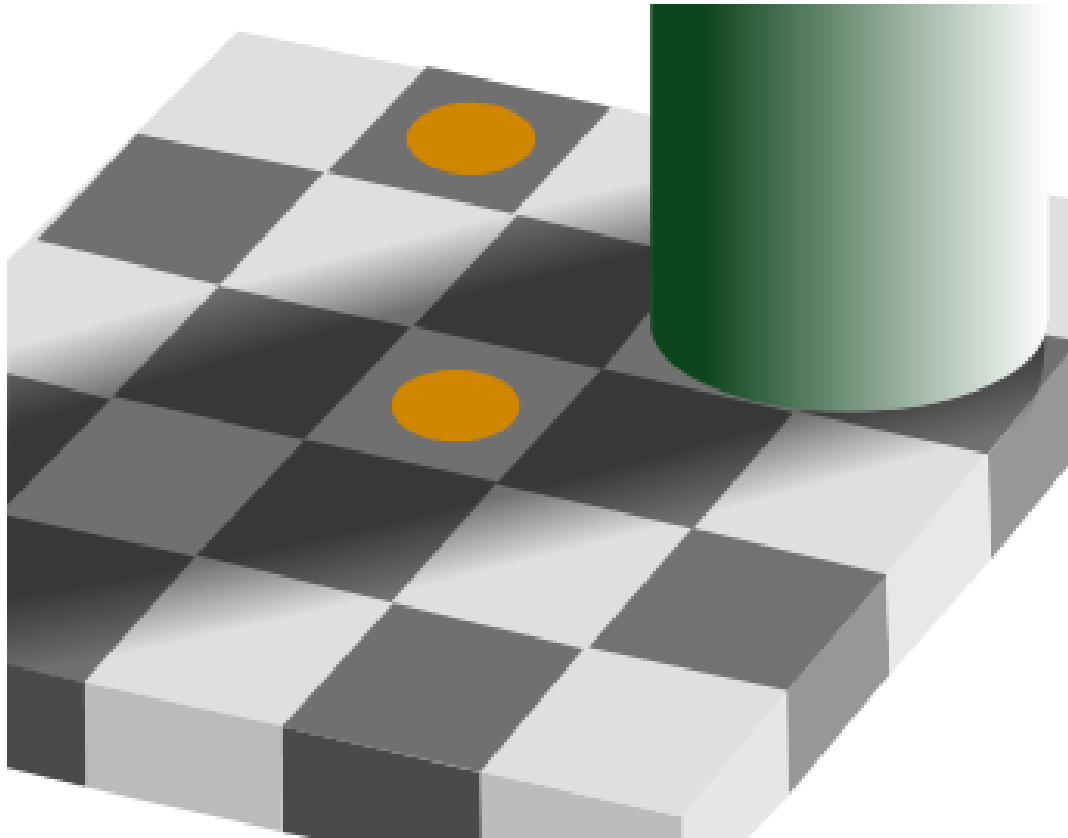
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Color Constancy

When interpreting colors, perception accounts for relative hue, or wavelengths. Take a moment to examine the picture below. Note that in the image the two circles are the exact same wavelength, meaning the exact same color hue is entering your eye.

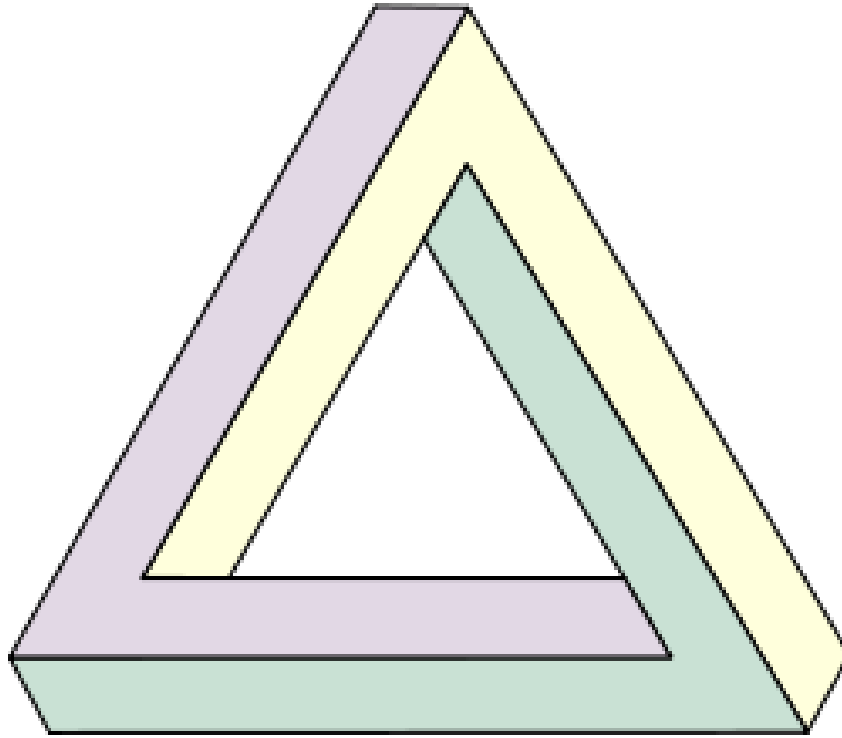
4. Describe the colors of the circles in the picture. How do the colors of the items next to the circles impact your perception of their color?



Perceptual Illusions

Typically, your sensory systems are perceptions are highly effective at constructing a correct and useful interpretation of the world. However, occasionally your perceptions can be fooled. The below image is called an “impossible triangle.”

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5. Why could this impossible triangle not exist in the real world?
6. What other types of “impossible figures” can you find on the Internet?