



DR. OPTICAL'S MAY ACTIVITY PAGE

Dr. Optical and Miss Illusion each wear one eyeball on the front of their costume (after all they are mascots, not real people!). However, they know that using two eyes to see creates depth perception. Now they want to find out why depth perception is important.

Because we have two eyes, each eye looks at an image from a slightly different angle. When both eyes work together they create an image that is 3 dimensional rather than flat. This lets us figure out if one object is closer than another object. For example depth perception helps us catch a ball, go up and down stairs safely or step off the curb into the street.

Are you ready to try an easy experiment that will show you the difference of using one or two eyes to judge depth? You will need two pencils. Hold one in each hand. Then position them horizontally with the eraser ends facing each other at arms-length from your body. Close one eye and try to touch the erasers together. Then open both eyes and try again. Which way was harder? Using one open eye should have been harder because without depth perception your brain had a more difficult time trying to figure out when the pencils were lined up together.

