

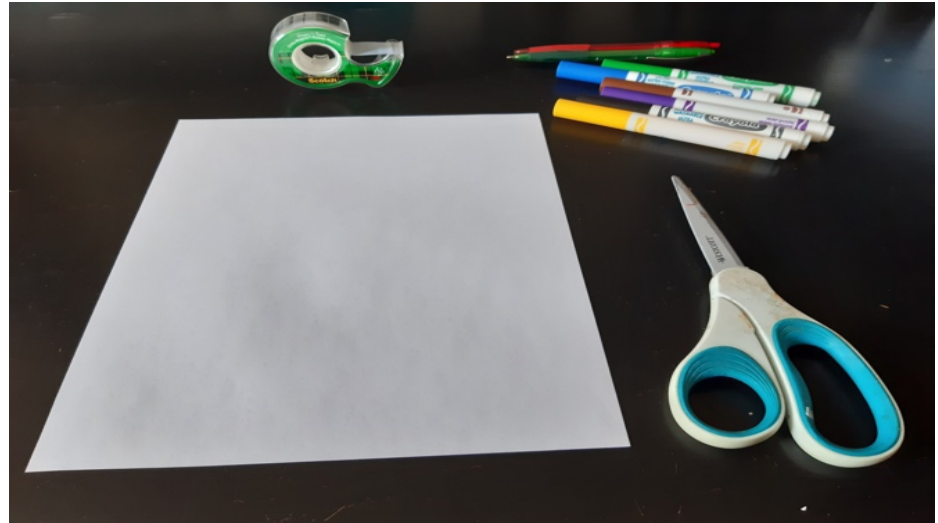
Optical Illusion Spinners

Sometimes, art is designed to deceive. How much of what we believe is based on what we perceive? Optical illusions are designs that fool the eye into seeing something different than what is actually there. In artwork, tricks of geometry, materials, and technique can combine to deceive the eye – even when the audience is in on the trick!

In this craft, you create your own optical illusion. You know the trick, but your eye sees differently.

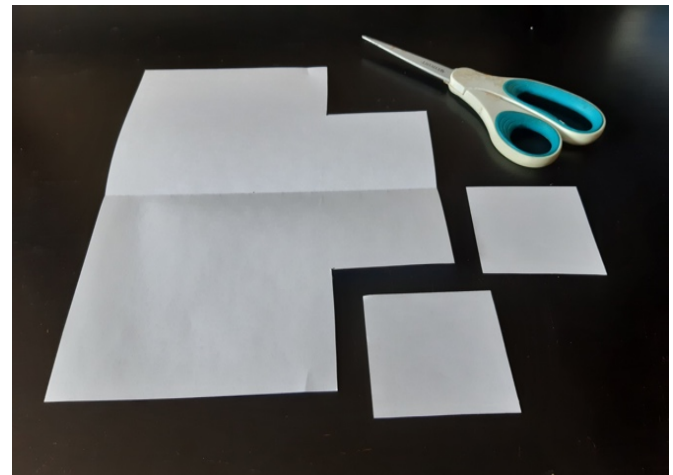
You Will Need:

- White Paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Pencils, Pens, or Markers



Instructions:

- 1) Fold a piece of white paper in half. Using scissors, cut out a shape such as a square or a circle. You now have two paper cut-outs of the same size.



- 2) Think of a simple scene you would like to draw. For example: birds flying through a park. Once you have chosen your scene, separate it into two different parts: the focus of the scene, and the background.

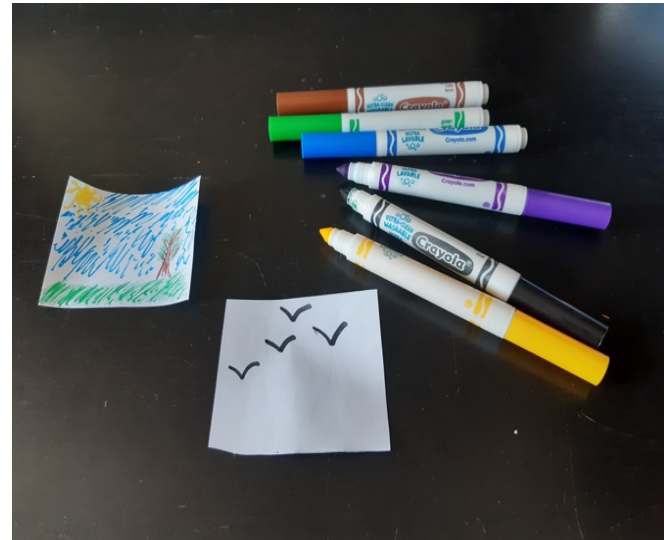
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- 3) On one cut-out, draw the background of this scene.

For our example, draw the park, the sky, and other background details.

- 4) On the other cut-out, draw the focus of the scene. Leave the rest of the cut-out blank.

For our example, draw the birds.



- 5) Tape the two cut-outs back-to-back, around the end of a pencil, pen, or marker.

- 6) Hold the pencil, pen, or marker between your hands, and spin it around.

Keep your eyes focused on the scene, and watch as your eyes create an optical illusion: see the two pictures appear as one!



- 7) Experiment! Try cutting different shapes, drawing new pictures, and spinning faster or slower to create new optical illusions.

Explore Further:

Optical illusion is a feature of many different kinds of artwork. Do your own research – what examples of optical illusion can you discover?

