
“What can give us truer knowledge than our senses? With what else can we better distinguish the true from the false?”

- Lucretius

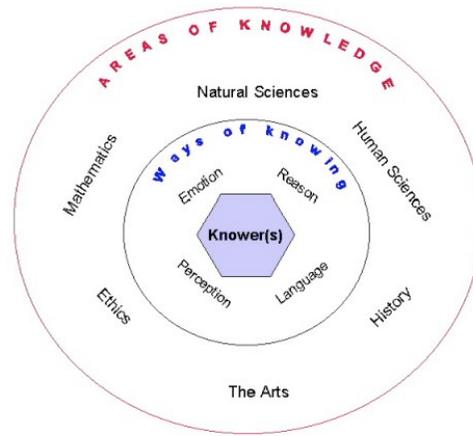


Two WOKs at work here: Logic vs. Perception. What are they doing to one another? Discuss reconciliation of WOKs. Which one wins?

Objectives

- Understand the strengths and limitations of the various Ways of Knowing
 - Become aware of the interpretative nature of knowledge including personal and ideological biases
 - Develop an understanding of why critically examining knowledge claims is important
 - Understand that personal views, judgments and beliefs may influence your own knowledge claims and those of others
 - Develop a concern for rigor in formulating knowledge claims, and intellectual honesty
-

TOK Diagram



Perception

1. To become aware of directly through any of the senses, especially sight or hearing.
2. To achieve understanding of; apprehend.

Source: <http://www.dictionary.com>

We are mostly sight based - do activity where students look at an object and describe it. They will naturally result with a lot of sight adjectives. Discuss how we rely on sight the most.

Ask them to consider

-about the people who don't have sight and are born blind

-perhaps some people have preferred senses (ie. Some people taste things differently)

Perception

- Because perception is the active, selective, and interpretative process of recording or becoming conscious of the external world through sense experience, the experiences should be examined and critically evaluated.

Show spinning dancer from internet

Your brain interprets what it sees. Your brain records it and may fill in some gaps to create a whole picture/memory.

Active - it is constantly looking

Selective - it chooses the information it is looking for

Interpretative - It will interpret the information it receives

Perception

1. In what ways does the biological constitution of a living organism determine, influence, or limit its perception?
2. What are the consequences for the acquisition of knowledge?
3. How does technology extend and modify the capabilities of the senses?

Have students get in groups of 3 or 4. You may not work with anyone at your table.

1-answer in groups and share

2-What is the responsibility if we have knowledge?

- If we witness a murder, what is our responsibility?
- How about cheating on a test?
- The previous are more ethical examples of knowledge—what if you discover evidence that proves evolution occurred? What if you discover it didn't?
- What about the discovery of evidence that contradicts Einstein's theories?

3-Area of Knowledge link

- Have you seen changes in your lifetime?
- Do you see any implications of this in the future?

Perception

What are the implications of the following claim by Aldous Huxley:

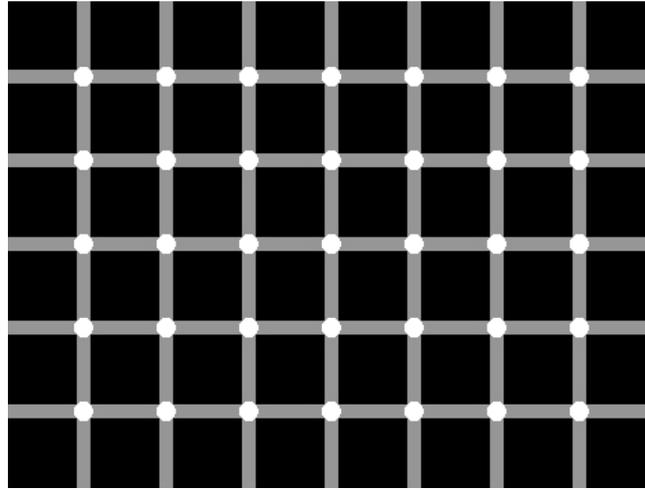
"By its very nature every embodied spirit is doomed to suffer and enjoy in solitude. Sensations, feelings, insights, fancies- all these are private and, except through symbols and at second hand, incommunicable"?

Have students get in groups of 3 or 4. You may not work with anyone at your table.

- 1) Come up with what the quote means in laymen's terms.
- 2) What are the implications of this quote?

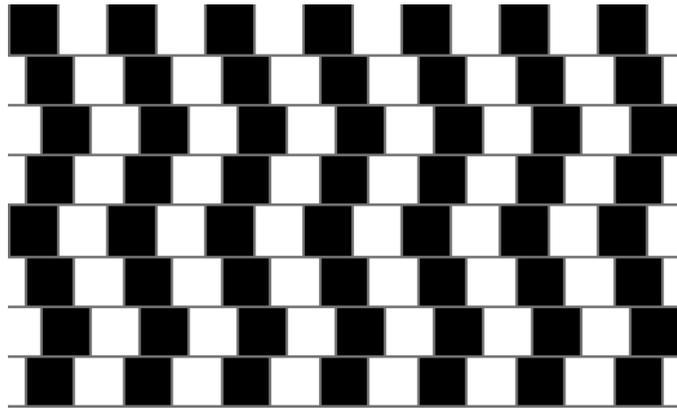
Discuss answers.

Illusions



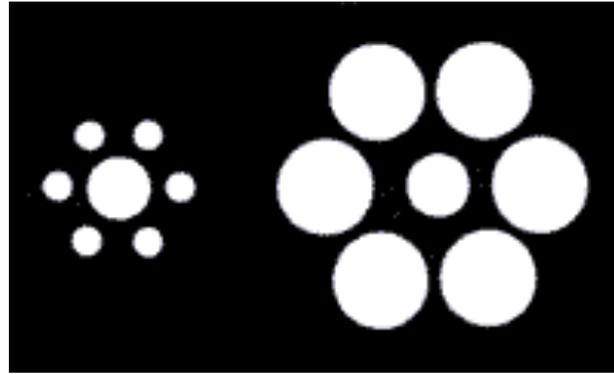
Where are the black dots?

Illusions



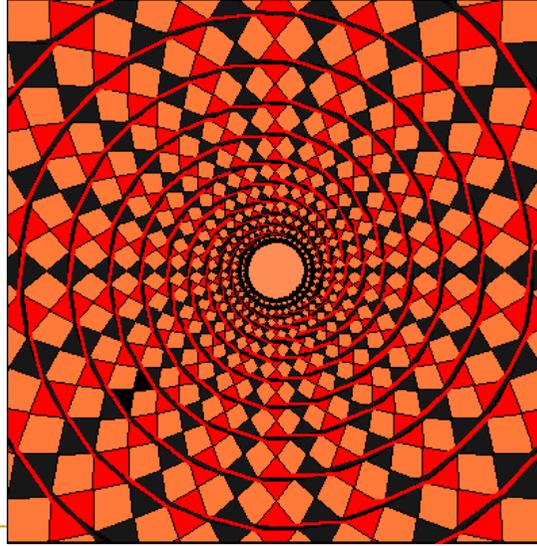
Are the lines curved or straight? Are they parallel?

Illusions



Which dot in the middle is bigger?

Illusions



Is it spiraling or concentric circles?

Check out this site!

- <http://www.eyetricks.com/illusions.htm>
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Perception as the Interpretation of Our Senses

Your personal interest acts as filters for your perceptions. How would sunset be seen through the eyes of the following people:

- A religious leader
 - A physicist
 - An artist
 - A farmer
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N Rays

- Read the article about N Rays
 - In groups discuss the implications of this example regarding the limitations of perception
-

JESUS FISH STICK



Technology and Perception





Seeing is Believing

- Can you think of other examples of how our beliefs affect our perceptions?
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Perception

- How, and to what extent, might expectations, assumptions, and beliefs affect perceptions?
 - How, if at all, can factors which bias views of the world be recognized?
 - Do knowers have a moral duty to examine their own perceptual filters?
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Homework

- Choose one of the quotes on page 85 in your textbook and discuss how it relates to issues of perception
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