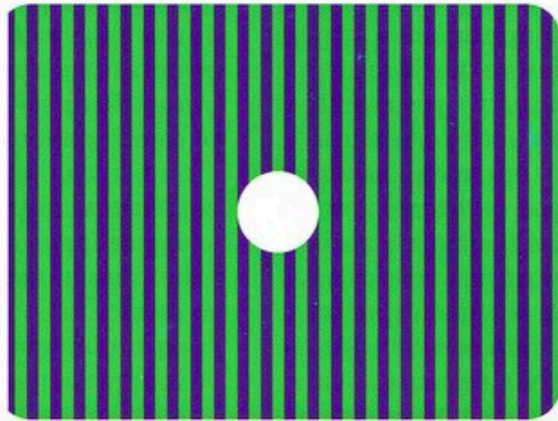
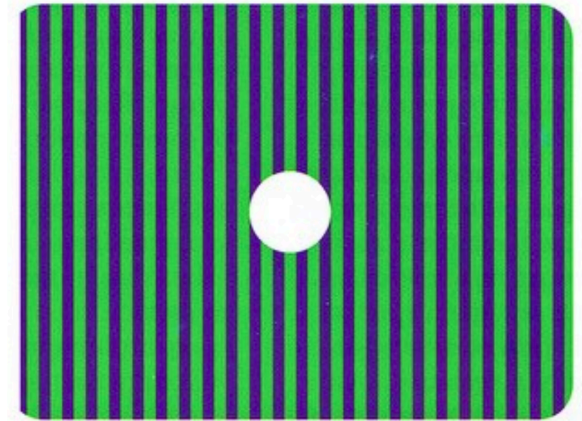


Why do we have a blind spot?

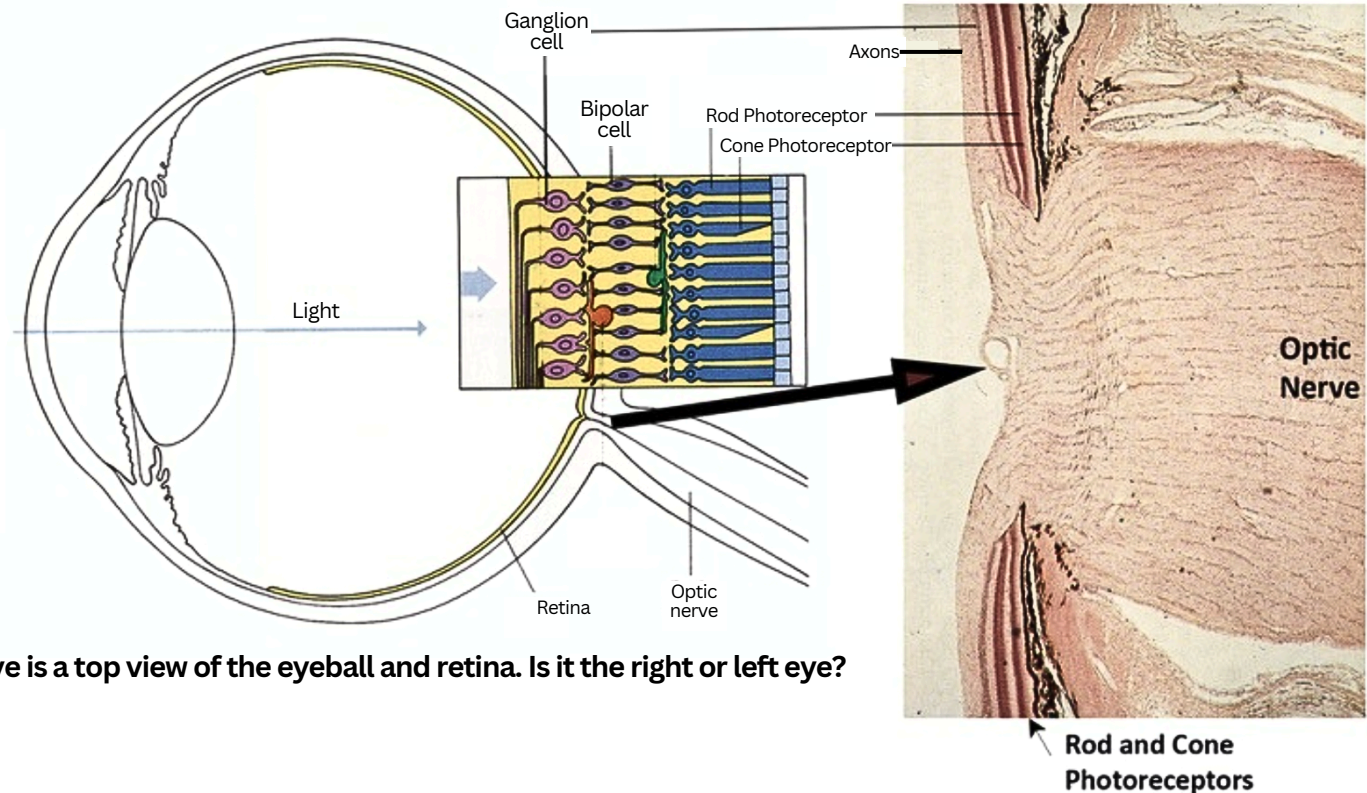
Instructions: close one eye and look at the X. Hold the paper at arm's length and then move it slowly toward your eye until you find a distance where one of the white spots in the pattern disappears. Then try it with the other eye closed. What can you say about where the blind spot is on your retina? Notice that when the white spot disappears there does not seem to be a hole in the stripes. Your brain tries to convince you that there are stripes even when your retina does not see them.



X



Light passes through multiple retinal layers before reaching the photoreceptors (rods and cones) located in the back of the retina. The photoreceptors then activate the ganglion cells to send nerve impulses through their axons to the optic nerve and then the brain. Thus, there are no photoreceptors where the axons of the ganglion cells leave the retina. *This is the blind spot.*



Above is a top view of the eyeball and retina. Is it the right or left eye?