

Name _____

Date _____

The sense of sight – I can see

Reading/discussion

We have five senses which we use to learn about the world we live in. They are hearing, touching, smelling, tasting and seeing. Our eyes tell us about light and dark, about color and shape and size and about distance. Can you think of some of the things you learn by using your eyes?

Some people can only see a little, or not at all. We say they are **visually impaired** or **blind**. Can you imagine what it would be like if you couldn't see? Try walking about the classroom with your eyes closed. How did it feel?

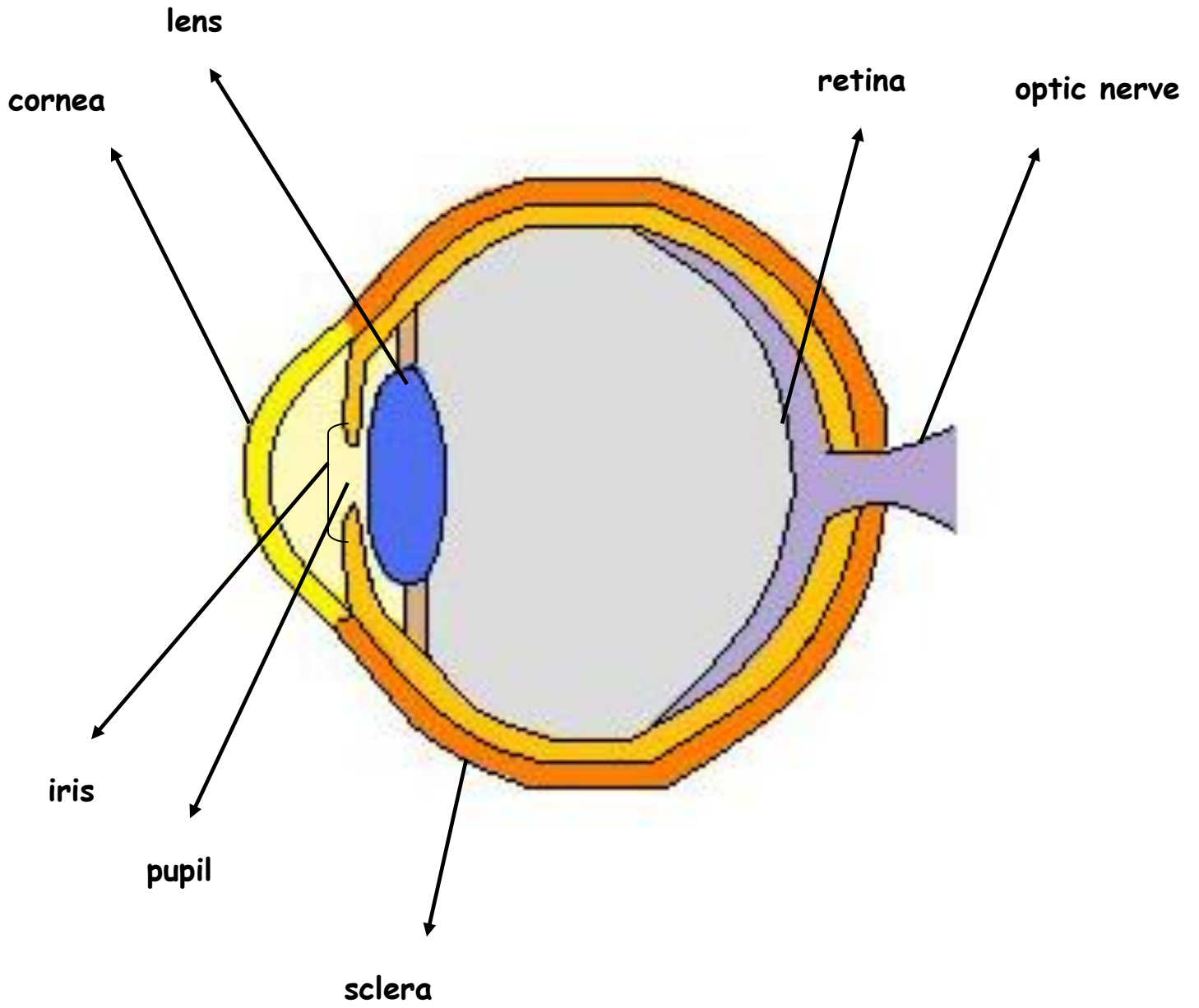
People who are visually impaired or blind still do many of the things which you can do. They work and play, visit friends, listen to music and even play sports. Those who are only **partially** visually impaired can use eyeglasses or contact lenses to help them do all these things. Blind people often use seeing eye dogs and read Braille. Computers can be programmed to recognize voices and to speak so that it is not necessary to see what is on the screen.

Have you ever wondered how your eyes work? Look at the diagram of an eye on the next page. When you look at something the light reflects off of the object and goes into your eye through the **pupil** and then through the **lens** which picks up the image you are looking at, turns it upside down and sends it to the **retina** at the back of your eye. The retina sends the image through the **optic nerve** to the brain. Then the brain decides what you are seeing and what you should do about it. For example, you might be looking at an ice cream cone. What will your brain tell you to do?

The other parts of the eye which you can see in the diagram are the **iris**, which is the coloured part of your eye around the pupil. The iris can change the size of the pupil and let in more or less light. The **cornea** protects the lens and the **sclera** is the white part of your eye ball.

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Activities:

A. Paired reading

Read through the discussion sheet with a friend. Here are some of the questions you can discuss together:

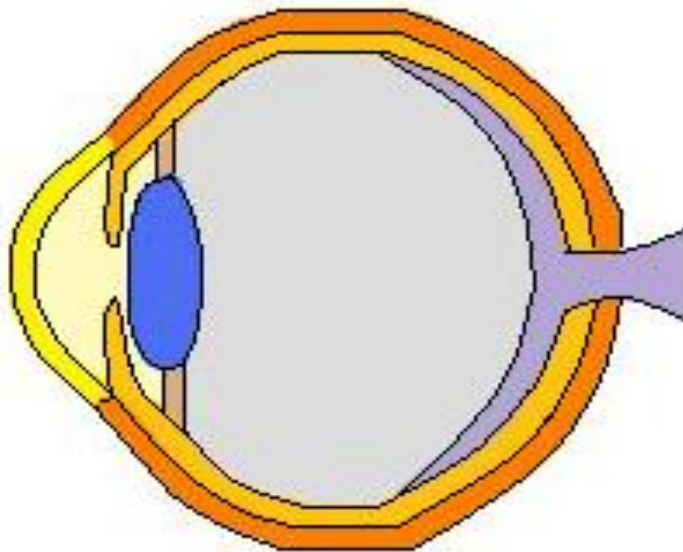
- Can you think of some of the things you learn by using your eyes?
- Can you imagine what it would be like if you couldn't see?

Try walking about the classroom with your eyes closed, you can help each other so that you don't bump into anything.

- How did it feel?

B. Test yourselves

Here is another diagram of the eye. Working together, see if you can fill in all the labels without looking (there should be 7). Check your answers and then take turns explaining to each other how the eye works. You can look at the discussion sheet if you are not sure.



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Answer Sheet

Activity A.

This is a reading activity.

Activity B.

See labels on the original diagram.

- Light reflects off an object.
- Light enters the eye through the pupil
- The iris controls the amount of light entering through the pupil
- The image passes through the lens
- The image is turned upside down by the lens
- The lens focuses the image on the retina
- The retina sends the image through the optic nerve to the brain.