

conditions are right, rods can see the flame of a single candle five miles away!

Try the following experiments and discover more amazing things your two different pairs of eyes can do!

Scaring Yourself in the Dark

Try this experiment next time you go to bed to observe how night vision develops.

Keep your eyes open as you turn off all lights. Pretty spooky, isn't it? Hold your hand a few inches from your face. Can you see it?

Now close your eyes for a few minutes, then hold your hand near your face and open your eyes again. What can you see now?

The room should seem much brighter now because your eyes have been rebuilding rods. It takes almost an hour each night to fix all the rods in your eyes.



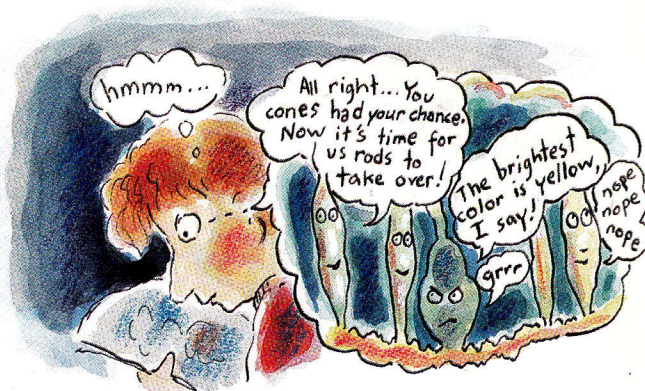
The Strange Case of the Shifting Colors

This experiment will show how rods and cones perceive brightness differently.

Find a magazine picture with patches of yellow and bluish green. Look at the picture in a brightly lit place. Which patches seem the brightest?

Take the picture into a dark room. Wait several minutes until your night vision develops, then look at the picture again. Which parts seem brightest now?

When you carry the photo back into the light, you may be surprised to see the brighter and dimmer areas change places!



The Mysterious Disappearing Star Trick

Try this experiment to test the kinds of light your rods and cones can process.

Sight a faint star out of the corner of your eye. Now turn and look straight at the star. What happens? Look at the star out of the side of your eye again. Is it there or not?

The many rods at the edge of your retina can pick up faint starlight. The cones in the center of your retina can't. 