

## Drawing an Optical Illusion

Your senses include sight, touch, sound, taste, and smell. They are windows to the world around you. When you see something, the image travels from your eye to your brain. The brain then makes sense of what you see. Sometimes your brain “sees” something that may be different than what is happening. This is called an illusion. The word optical has to do with sight or vision. So when your brain is tricked or fooled this way, we call what it “sees” an optical illusion.

### What You Need

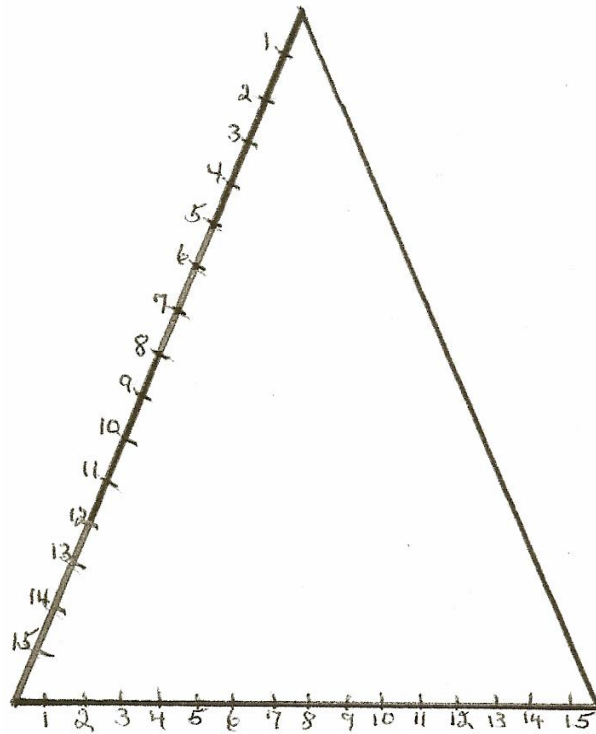
this page   pencil or pen   ruler

### Preparing the Activity

1. Print this page.
2. Use a pencil or pen and a ruler. Draw a line connecting points 1 and 1. Then draw a line from points 2 and 2. Connect the remaining numbers the same way.

### What Do You Observe?

As you draw more lines, do the lines appear to curve? But how can this happen when you are drawing straight lines? This is an optical illusion. Try this activity with different sized triangles.



### Art Fun

**With an adult**, draw a triangle on a piece of wood. Mark points on two sides of the triangle. Hammer in small nails at each point. Use string or yarn to connect nails 1 to 1. Continue for all nails. Keep the string tight.

### On the Internet

This site contains many illusions. Make sure you scroll to the bottom.

<http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/illusion/illusions.htm>