

COLOUR FOUNDATIONS: AFTERIMAGES

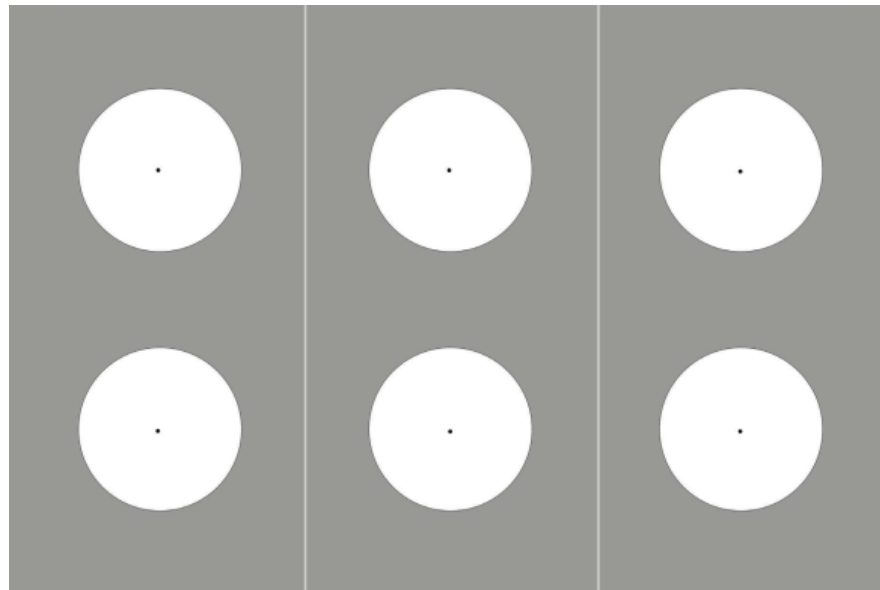
Ages	5 to 99
Time	15 minutes
Learning Outcome	Experience afterimage with one and both eyes. Describe the difference between a colour and its afterimage.
Colour Concepts	Recognize that afterimages result from adaption in the retina.

MATERIALS

- Crayon (or marker or pencil crayon- something to colour in a space)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Choose one colour of crayon (or pencil crayon etc.) and colour in the top circle on the left.
- Stare at the black dot inside the coloured circle for 30 seconds, then shift your focus to the black dot inside the white circle below your coloured circle.
- What colour do you see? This is the afterimage colour of the colour of your crayon.
- Find the crayon colour that is the closest match to the afterimage's colour, and colour in the top middle circle.
- Close or cover your left eye and repeat the second step above.
- Now close or cover your right eye, and look at the white circle below.
- What do you notice?



QUESTIONS & OBSERVATIONS

1. What is the relationship between a colour and the colour of its afterimage?
2. What does doing this exercise with one eye tell you about afterimages?
3. Can you take a photograph of an afterimage? Why?

MORE TO EXPLORE

1. Repeat the exercise on the top right circle using a different coloured crayon.