



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2013 PROJECT SUMMARY**

Name(s) Molly M. Shine	Project Number J0717
Project Title Is It Real or Just an Illusion? The Effect of Age on Optical Illusion Perception	
Abstract Objectives/Goals The objective of this investigation was to learn if age affected optical illusion perception. The hypothesis was that the increase of age would make the optical illusion perception more acute, allowing the subjects to see and perceive more in the illusion than younger girls. Methods/Materials Ten different black-and-white optical illusions were placed in a shadow box. Thirty girls were tested: ten each from the third, fifth, and eighth grades. One by one, each student was brought into a separate room, shown the ten illusions, and asked what the subject saw in each. The answers were recorded on a data sheet. Results The results of the data collected showed that the eighth grade girls saw the whole illusion correctly more often than the third and fifth graders. However, the third grade girls had more complete answers than the fifth grade girls did. Conclusions/Discussion The results neither supported nor disproved the hypothesis. No patten was found to explain this, but the ages might provide a theory. The third graders still have very active imaginations helping them and the eighth graders have a cultural and academic advantage. the fifth graders are right in between these two stations in life.	
Summary Statement This project focused on how the perception of an illusion differs with age differences.	
Help Received Mother helped type board; Father helped edit board; Olivia Kohler helped rotate illusions and held box	