The Blind Spot

Name: _______________________

Goal: A visual illusion will be used to show that there is a place on the retina that lacks photoreceptors creating a blind spot. Students will learn that perception is a result of a stimulus and the coding of the nervous system.

Materials: A piece of paper for each student with the following symbols:
Pieces of paper with the symbols: Lf, X, and Rt with 3 inches between each symbol.

Procedure:
1. Students each get a strip of paper and close their right eye.
2. Students stare at “X” about 12 inches from face.
3. Slowly move the paper up and down and back and forth.
4. The Lf should disappear
5. Repeat with closing the left eye and the Rt show disappear

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of students that had Lf disappear</th>
<th>Number of students that had Rt disappear</th>
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1. Why did the Lf or Rt disappear?

2. How do we see objects?

3. How do our eyes detect light?

4. What would happen if there were a place in the retina where there are no photoreceptors?

5. Are there any places where there are no photoreceptors?

6. Why don’t we notice this blind spot in everyday life?