



MERCURY BAY OPTOMETRIST EYE TIMES

ISSUE 53

FACTS ABOUT THE HUMAN EYE



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- Your retinas actually perceive the outside world as upside-down – your brain flips the image for you.
- In addition to being upside-down, images arrive at your retina split in half and distorted. Each half of your brain receives one half of the image, and then they scramble the images together to compose the whole picture you're used to seeing.
- Your retinas cannot detect the colour red. Although your retinas have red, green and blue colour receptors, the "red" receptor only detects yellow-green, and the "green" receptor detects blue-green. Your brain combines these signals and turns them into red.
- Your peripheral vision is very low-resolution and is almost in black-and-white. You don't realise it because your eyes move to "fill in" the peripheral detail before you notice the difference.
- Got blue eyes? You share an ancestor with all other blue-eyed people across the world. And if you have brown eyes, you're old school. All humans originally had brown eyes. Blue eyes appeared as a mutation about 6,000 years ago.
- On average, you blink 17 times a minute. That's 14,280 times in a 24-hour day, and 5.2 million times a year.
- If you're shortsighted, your eyeball is longer than normal. If you're farsighted, it's shorter than average.
- Your eyes are almost the same size as they were when you were born. And newborn babies can see clearly up to 15 inches away.
- Your tears have different compositions based on whether something's irritating your eye, or you're crying, or yawning.
- Your eye is constantly making tiny jerking movements called "microsaccades" to stop objects from fading from your vision. A process called Troxler's phenomenon causes static objects in your gaze to disappear if you stare at them for too long. Microsaccades stop this from happening.
- Your eye can distinguish between 50,000 shades of grey.
- Eyes began to develop 550 million years ago. The simplest eyes were patches of photoreceptor protein in single-celled animals.
- Your eyes start to develop two weeks after you are conceived.
- The entire length of all the eyelashes shed by a human in their life is over 98 feet with each eye lash having a life span of about 5 months.
- To protect our eyes they are positioned in a hollowed eye socket, while eyebrows prevent sweat dripping into your eyes and eyelashes keep dirt out of your eyes.
- An eye is composed of more than 2 million working parts.
- Only 1/6 of the human eyeball is exposed.
- Corneas are the only tissues that don't have blood.
- 80% of our memories are determined by what we see.
- Eyes heal quickly. With proper care, it takes only about 48 hours to repair a minor corneal scratch.
- 80% of vision problems worldwide are avoidable or even curable.
- A fingerprint has 40 unique characteristics, but an iris has 256, a reason retina scans are increasingly being used for security purposes.
- "Red eye" occurs in photos because light from the flash bounces off the back of the eye. The choroid is located behind the retina and is rich in blood vessels, which make it appear red on film.
- Eyes are the second most complex organ after the brain.

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