



# SCIENCE SPAZA

ACTIVITY 4: 2024

## SEEING DISTANCE



Have you ever wondered how you know how close or far something is from you? It's called '**depth perception**'. It helps you work out how far away things are from you so you catch a ball, walk down the stairs safely, and even draw cool pictures.

### LET'S TRY IT...

**YOU WILL NEED:**  
TWO PENCILS, STICKS OR PENS

**1.** Hold a pencil, stick or pen in each hand. Now stretch your arms out in front and to your sides.

**2.** Close one of your eyes. Try bringing the pencils, pens or sticks together to touch each other.

**3.** Now, try it again, but this time with both of your eyes open.

**How did it go?**

### WHICH WORKED BETTER, USING ONE OR TWO EYES?

Depth perception helps you know if something is close, like your pencil on your desk, or far away, like the trees outside, but we need both of our eyes to work it out. This is why for most people, it's really hard to get the pens, pencils or sticks to meet when one eye is closed.

Our eyes each show you slightly different views of the same thing. Your brain looks at the two different views, and uses this and other clues, like how much your eyes have to move to focus on something, and if things look blurry or clear, to work out how far away things are from you.