



Find a hidden image

Concealed beneath this bright pattern is a 3D scene – but can you spot it?

1 Hold the image in front of your nose and relax your eyes. Try not to focus on the coloured pattern; look through the image instead.

2 Slowly move the image away from your face. At some point, blurry shapes will start to appear. When you see them, stop moving the page and keep staring without blinking. The 3D picture will magically reveal itself.

How does it work?

This kind of image is known as an autostereogram – an illusion made popular in a series of books called *Magic Eye* in the 1990s. Autostereograms are a type of optical illusion. Although they are just two-dimensional pictures, they trick the brain into perceiving depth – the key to seeing in three dimensions. When you let your eyes unfocus, each eye receives its own

BOGGLING BESTSELLER

The *Magic Eye* books were huge in the 1990s – all together the three volumes sold 25 million copies.

image of an object. Your brain, however, is used to transforming two similar pictures into one. Instead of seeing two objects close up, your brain automatically stitches them together to make a single object behind the pattern, creating the impression of depth. These images are created by camouflaging a 3D model with a colourful 2D repeating pattern.

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