

CULTURAL OPENNESS AND PERCEPTION



Stringer, D. M., & Cassiday, P. A. (2003). A value to D-I-E for. In *52 Activities for exploring values differences* (pp. 17-19). Boston, MA: Intercultural Press.





TODAY'S PLAN

Whole class activities and discussion to

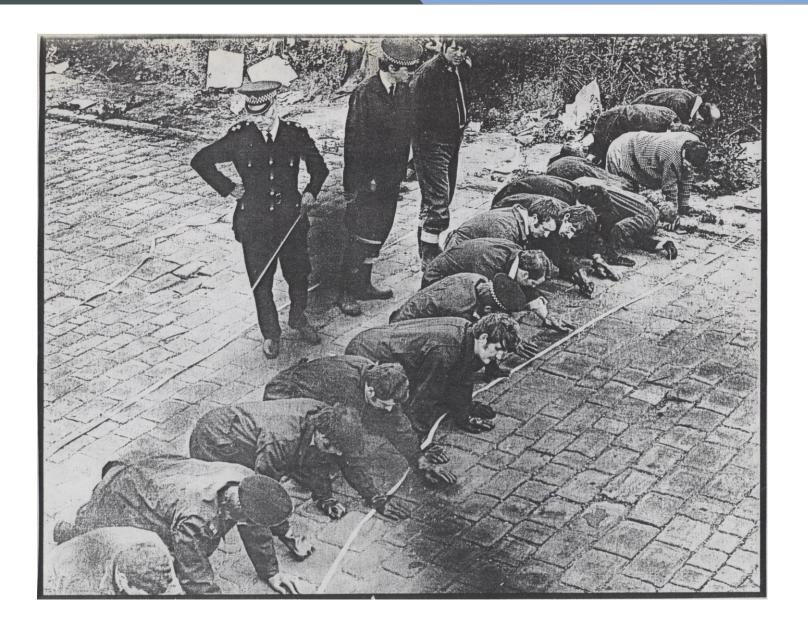
- Learn some new concepts
- Become more open
- Recognize the impact of culture on perception

A Pair/Share activity to

Practice applying new skills







Take a look at the following picture.

In a few seconds I am going to ask you to describe it.





Now I need some volunteers to tell me what you saw.

We'll take notes on your descriptions here on the projector.





How are these different?

D – Description

I – Interpretation

E – Evaluation





When I asked you to describe the picture, what did you actually do?

D – Description?

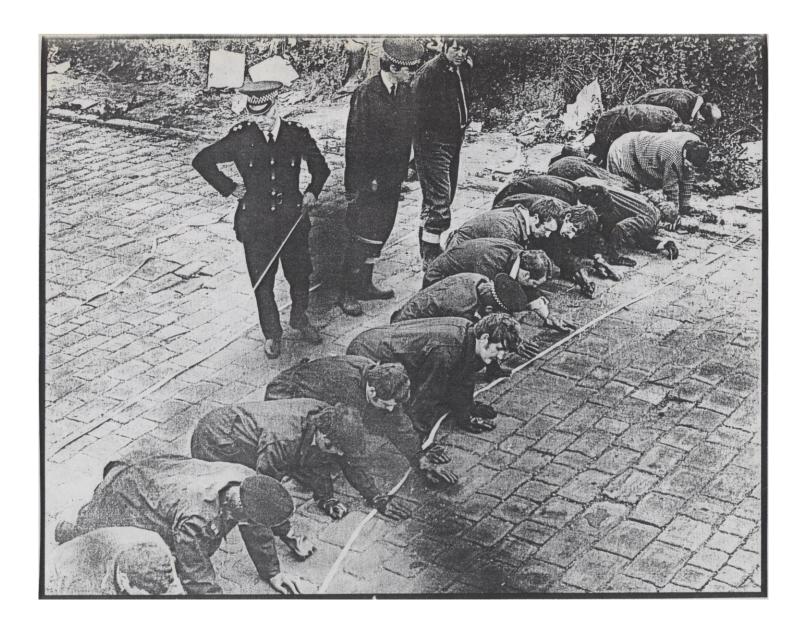
I – Interpretation?

E – Evaluation?

Why are they so hard to separate?







Let's try again!

Take another look at the picture.
This time, try ONLY to describe it.





More thoughts to ponder

- What does this have to do with CULTURE?
- "Neural signals are related less to a stimulus per se than to its congruence with internal goals and predictions, calculated on the basis of previous input to the system." Karsten Rauss, Cognitive Scientist
- How do people from different cultures interpret and evaluate this picture?





Common interpretations in various cultures... What do you think?

- A. Concentration camp
- B. Political prisoners working
- C. People praying
- D. A foot race about to begin
- E. Something else entirely be prepare to explain





Learning to Frame-Shift

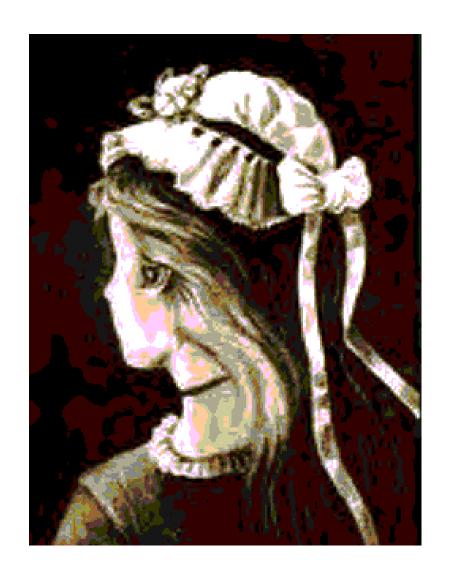
Look closely at each of the following pictures. Each can be seen two different ways.





What do you see?

- A. Young woman
- B. Old woman
- C. Both
- D. Something else







What do you see?

- A. An image
- B. A word
- C. Both
- D. Something else

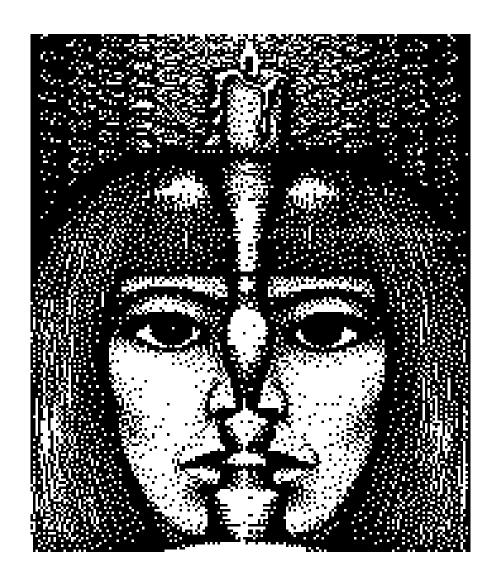






What do you see?

- A. One face
- B. Two faces
- C. Three faces
- D. Something else







What have we learned through optical illusions?

- Everyone does not naturally experience events in the same way: We frame in different ways
- Our frame is influence by what we notice, and what we know/recognize
- We can "catch" ourselves framing and learn to shift our frame of reference
- Other people can help us experience other ways of framing





Ask yourself:

 What assumption am I making, That I'm not aware I'm making, That gives me what I see?

And when you answer that, ask yourself:

What might I now invent,
 That I haven't yet invented,
 That would give me other choices?





PLUS/MINUS/NULL ACTIVITY

- What's your gut reaction interpretation of what is happening?
- Does that interpretation lead to positive, negative, or neutral evaluation?
- What are **two plausible alternate interpretations** with different evaluations (so if your first ideas was negative, think of neutral and positive explanations of that is happening)?





PLUS/MINUS/NULL ACTIVITY

What are your Plus/Minus/Null D.I.E.'s?







PLUS/MINUS/NULL ACTIVITY

Use your iClickers:

- 1. Is your first reaction (evaluation)
 - A. Positive
 - B. Negative
 - C. Neutral
- 2. What do you see (interpretation)
 - A. A woman being kidnapped
 - B. People catching a woman falling
 - C. A woman dancing
 - D. Something else entirely
- 3. What are other possible interpretations?
- 4. Does context matter? What if we play music while you look at the picture?



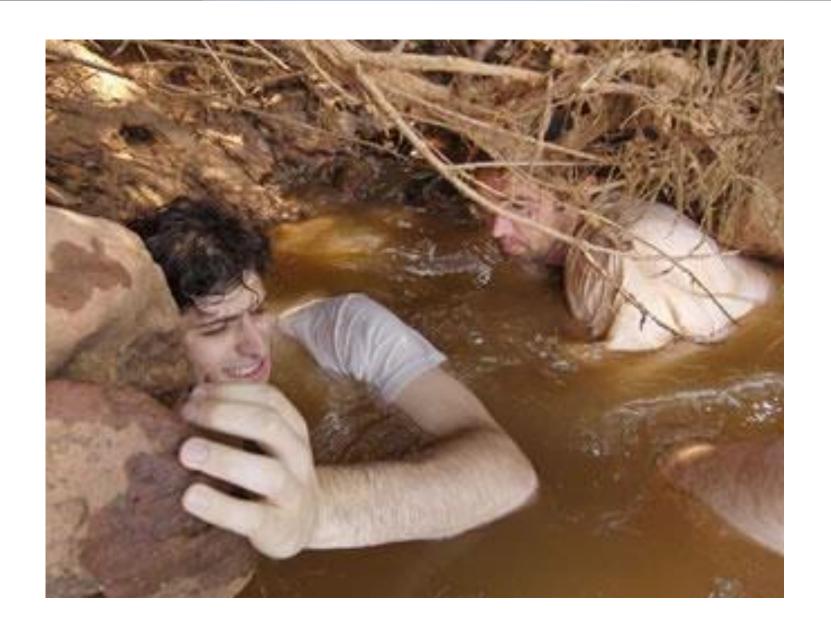


Now it's time to see what you have learned.

Working with a partner, look at the next picture and then answer the following questions.









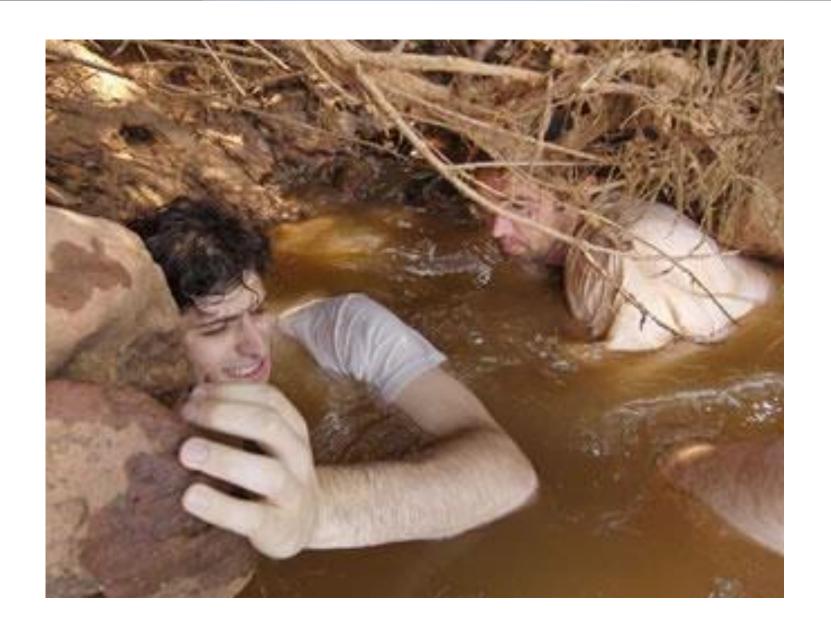


Take notes with your partner:

- 1. Describe what you saw. Be sure to separate description from interpretation and evaluation
- 2. Now move on to interpretations and evaluation. Is your first reaction a positive, negative, or neutral evaluation?
- 3. Follow through with Plus/Minus/Neutral What are other possible interpretations?











Time to share:

- 1. Describe what you saw.
- 2. Is your first reaction a positive, negative, or neutral evaluation?
- 3. What are other possible interpretations?
- 4. Do you want to know the truth
- 5. What "insider cultural knowledge" would you need to interpret this picture accurately?
- 6. Is it possible to come to different evaluations for one interpretation?

