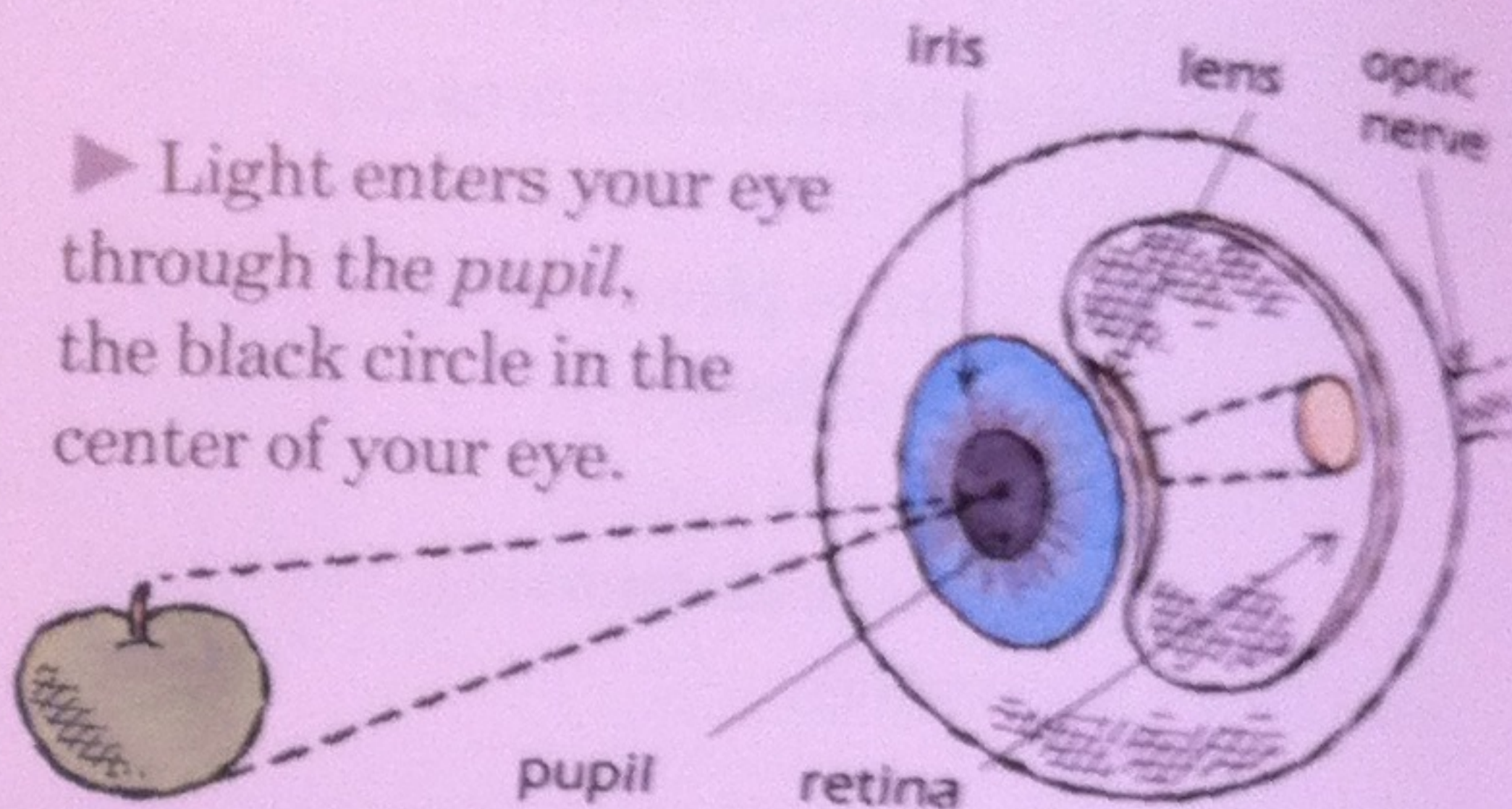


FOCUS ON EYES



Your eyes are a little bit like cameras.

► Light enters your eye through the *pupil*, the black circle in the center of your eye.



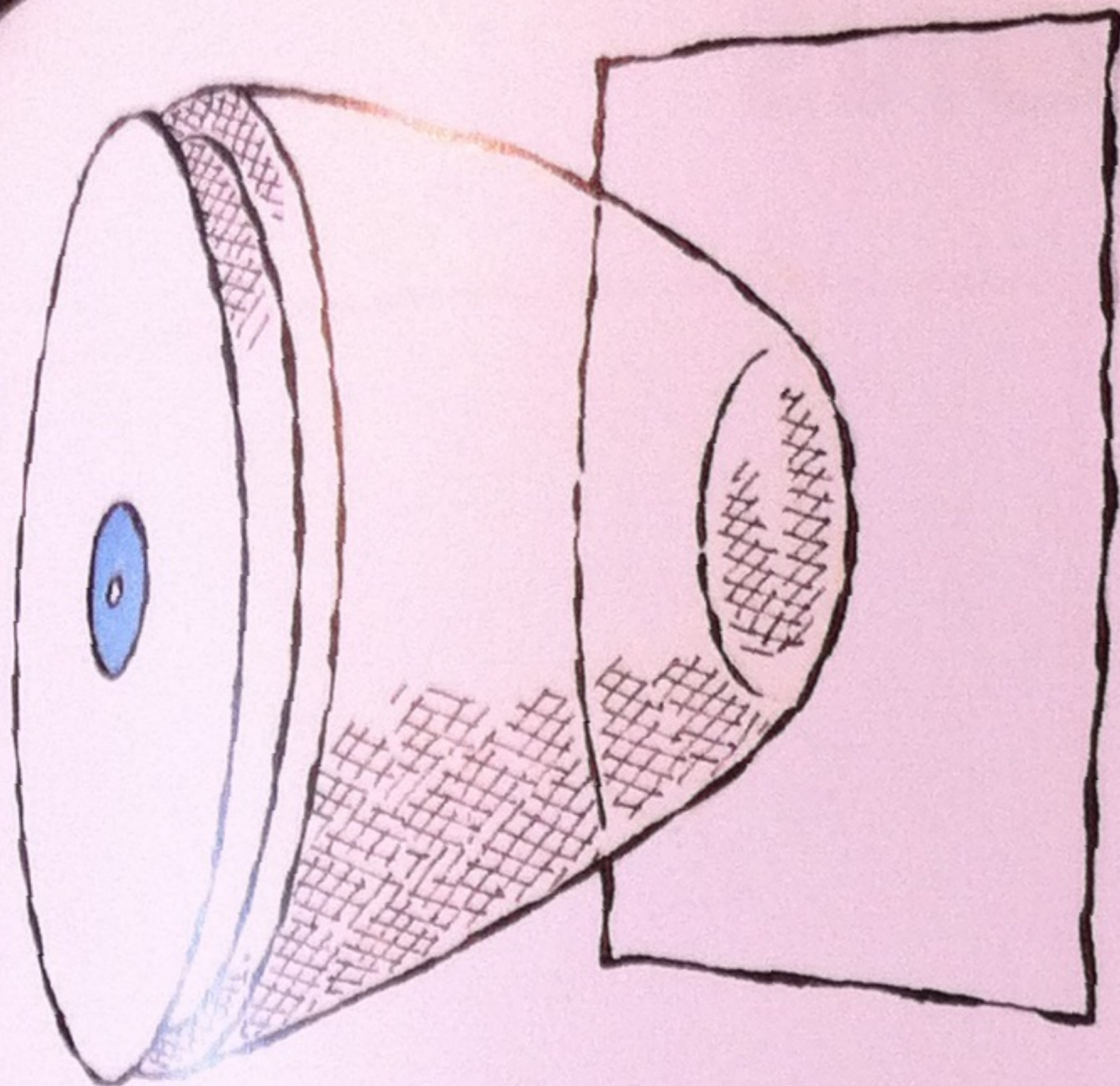
◀ Look at one of your friend's eyes. How big is the pupil? Now carefully shine a flashlight into your friend's eye and see what happens. Does the pupil change size? When it is dark, our pupils grow bigger to let in more light. When it is bright, our pupils get smaller because our eyes do not need as much light.

The *iris*, the colored part of your eye, changes the size of the pupil. This controls the amount of light that goes into your eye.

You have a *lens* in each eye that focuses light. Sometimes this lens does not work properly, and people need to wear an extra lens like eyeglasses or contact lenses.

Your eye's lens focuses light onto a surface called the *retina*. The images you see are upside down on your retina. Your *optic nerve* carries the image to your brain, which turns the picture right side up.





You can make a model of your eye using a round bowl made of clear glass, a sheet of white paper, and some cardboard. Cut a hole in the center of the cardboard about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch ($1\frac{1}{4}$ cm) across. This is the pupil. The glass bowl is like your eye. Point your model eye toward a television, with the cardboard facing the television screen.

Hold the sheet of paper behind the eye. This is like your retina. Move the model eye back and forth until you can see a good image of the television screen on the paper retina. Remember, the image will be upside down.

