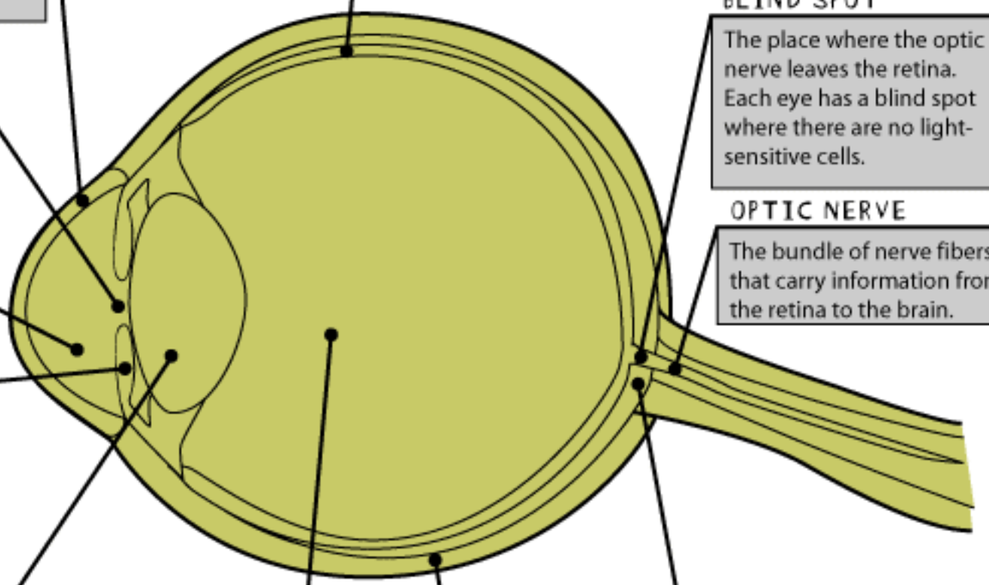

CORNEA

A tough, clear covering over the iris and the pupil that helps protect the eye. Light bends as it passes through the cornea. This is the first step in making an image on the retina. The cornea begins bending light to make an image; the lens finishes the job.

PUPIL

The pupil is the dark circle in the center of your iris. It's a hole that lets light into the inner eye. Your pupil is round. A cow's pupil is oval.

AQUEOUS HUMOR

A clear fluid that helps the cornea keep its rounded shape.

IRIS

A muscle that controls how much light enters the eye. It is suspended between the cornea and the lens. A cow's iris is brown. Human irises come in many colors, including brown, blue, green, and grey.

LENS

A clear, flexible structure that makes an image on the eye's retina. The lens is flexible so that it can change shape, focusing on objects that are close up and objects that are far away.

VITREOUS HUMOR

The thick, clear jelly that helps give the eyeball its shape.

SCLERA

The thick, tough, white outer covering of the eyeball.

RETINA

The layer of light-sensitive cells at the back of the eye. The retina detects images focused by the cornea and the lens. The retina is connected to the brain by the optic nerve.

BLIND SPOT

The place where the optic nerve leaves the retina. Each eye has a blind spot where there are no light-sensitive cells.

OPTIC NERVE

The bundle of nerve fibers that carry information from the retina to the brain.

TAPETUM

The colorful, shiny material located behind the retina. Found in animals with good night vision, the tapetum reflects light back through the retina.