EXPLORATION 1

Animal Eyes

Investigate how animals use vision for their survival.

Animals adapt in many different ways to survive in their habitats. Apart from adapting their habits, they even adapt physically to meet their needs. For example, predators* have eyes closer to each other at the front of their heads, while prey animals** have eyes set wide apart on the sides of their heads. These adaptations help predators focus on their prey and give prey a greater range of vision to avoid getting caught. Do you think we can experience how prey animals use vision?

*__predators__:
animals that hunt other animals

**__preys animals__:
animals that are hunted

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In this experiment, you will learn how some prey animals use vision to avoid predators.

Level of Difficulty: easy

Time Needed: 10 minutes

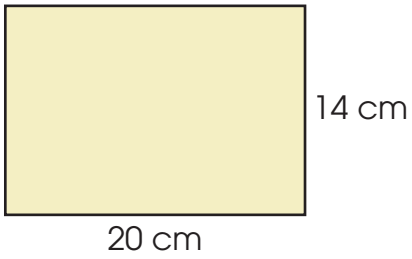
Hypothesis:

Circle the word to show your hypothesis.

Prey animals **can / cannot** see more around them to notice predators.

Materials:

- a piece of card from a cereal box
- scissors
- aluminum foil
- tape



Steps:

1. **Fold the card in half. Then unfold it.**
2. **Cover the card with the aluminum foil and tape it, keeping the foil smooth.**
3. **Fold the card back and hold it up, aligning it with your nose.**

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4. Wave your hand on the side of your head while looking at the card. What do you see?

5. Adjust the card by moving it up and down until you can see your waving hand.

Front View

Top View

Align the crease of the card with your nose.

Conclusion:

Read the conclusion. Circle the correct word.

When you align the card with your nose and move it up and down, it will allow you to see things on the side of your head.

My hypothesis was **correct / incorrect** .

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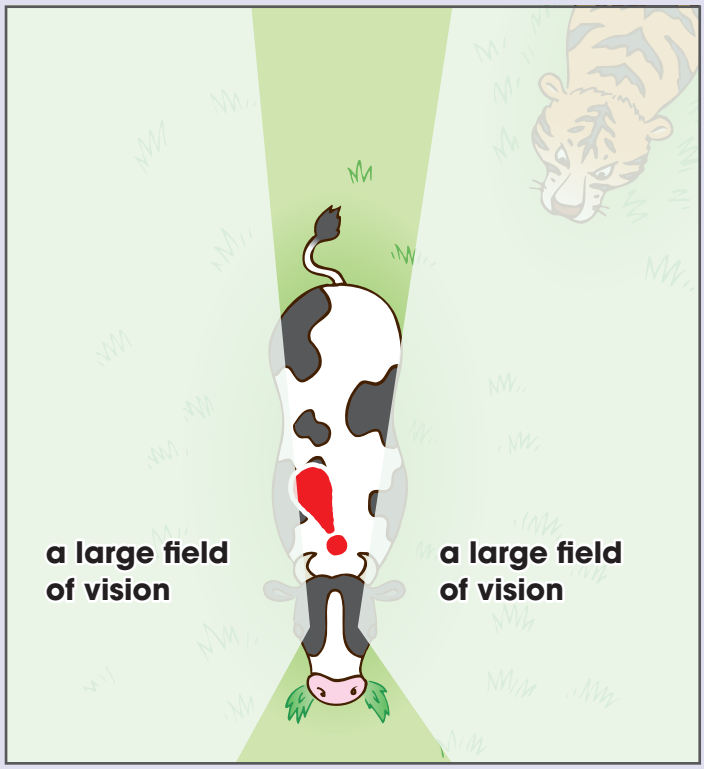
Explanation:

The reflection of the aluminum foil allowed you to see things on the sides of your head. In the wild, many prey animals see this way. This is because their eyes are widely located on the sides of their heads rather than in front like us or other predators.



The large field of vision on the sides of the heads of prey animals makes it easier to spot approaching predators and escape from them.