

APOPHENIA

DEFINITION

the human tendency to see meaningful patterns or images within random data.

Perceptions of religious imagery in natural phenomena, sometimes called simulacra, are sightings of images with spiritual or religious themes important to the perceiver. For example, the Cone Nebula is sometimes referred to as the Jesus Christ Nebula because of its resemblance to the popular depictions of Jesus with his hands in a prayer position.



ON TO SOME PATTERNS THAT TAKE MORE EFFORT TO SEE...

Find and circle the words provided in the word bank. Some letters in the word search grid are shared by two words. Once you have circled all the words, moving through the grid from left to right and top to bottom, transfer the shared letters into the blanks in the solution box below.

T E N O I T C E N N O C
E V L C V I S C I I K O
R S S B L I H M M K A W
P I D L M M E A N I N G
R H D U P E G W Z F K Y
E V X R O E S Y B A F C
T I J R R L C E O C H B
N H V Y O B C N R E A O
I K G P E R C E I V E I
R C Q I C R E A T I V E
T Y C T S W N V F A J F

WORD BANK

blurry	clouds	connection
creative	face	interpret
imagery	meaning	perceive
resemble	sight	view

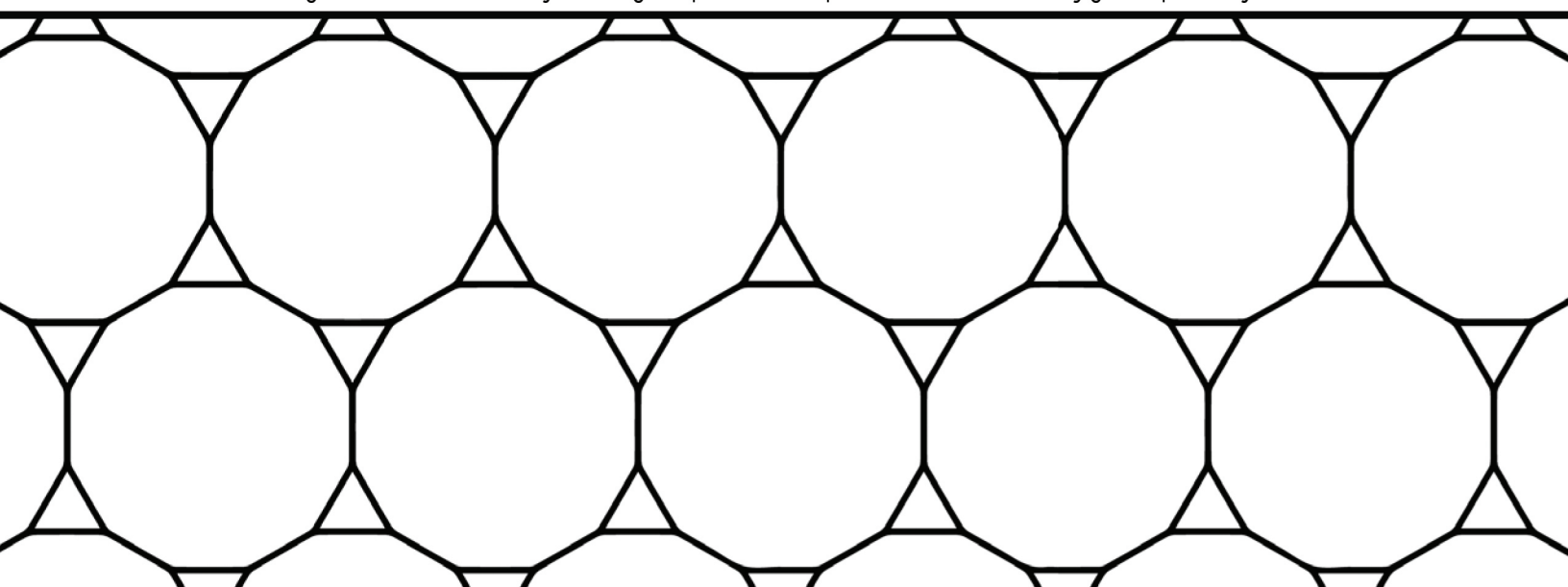
When you get to the end of the Quest, you can combine the word in this solution box with the other 9 puzzle solutions to reveal one password for the whole Quest, which you can trade in for a special gift!

SOLUTION _ _ _ _ _

FOR YOUR NEXT PUZZLE...

Ask an adult to share the Junior Secret Guild Quest puzzle with you when they reach the second stop on the journey through the Oddities of the Human Brain.

COLOR ME After coloring this tessellation, try cutting it up into 10-15 pieces to make a fun jigsaw puzzle you can share with friends!



Stroop Junior Secret Guild Quest

Oddities of the Human Brain Stop #1: Apophenia

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Credits

Puzzle sequence by Newton Creative Solutions, LLC

Thank you to [Megan Hendricks](#) via The Noun Project for providing the brain icon for our quest forms.

Thank you to supercoloring.com for the tessellation coloring sheet, licensed under <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Image Credit: [File:Cone Nebula \(NGC 2264\) Star-Forming Pillar of Gas and Dust.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cone_Nebula_(NGC_2264)_Star-Forming_Pillar_of_Gas_and_Dust_crop_-_20140103191719.jpg#filelinks) by NASA, H. Ford (JHU), G. Illingworth (UCSC/LO), M. Clampin (STScI), G. Hartig (STScI), the ACS Science Team, and ESA [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cone Nebula \(NGC 2264\) Star-Forming Pillar of Gas and Dust crop - 20140103191719.jpg#filelinks](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cone_Nebula_(NGC_2264)_Star-Forming_Pillar_of_Gas_and_Dust_crop_-_20140103191719.jpg#filelinks)

Thank you to <https://www.puzzlefast.com/> for the word search puzzle generation engine.

Read more about apophenia at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apophenia> and perceptions of religious imagery in natural phenomena at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perceptions_of_religious_imagery_in_natural_phenomena

Have fun exploring the oddities of the human brain!

