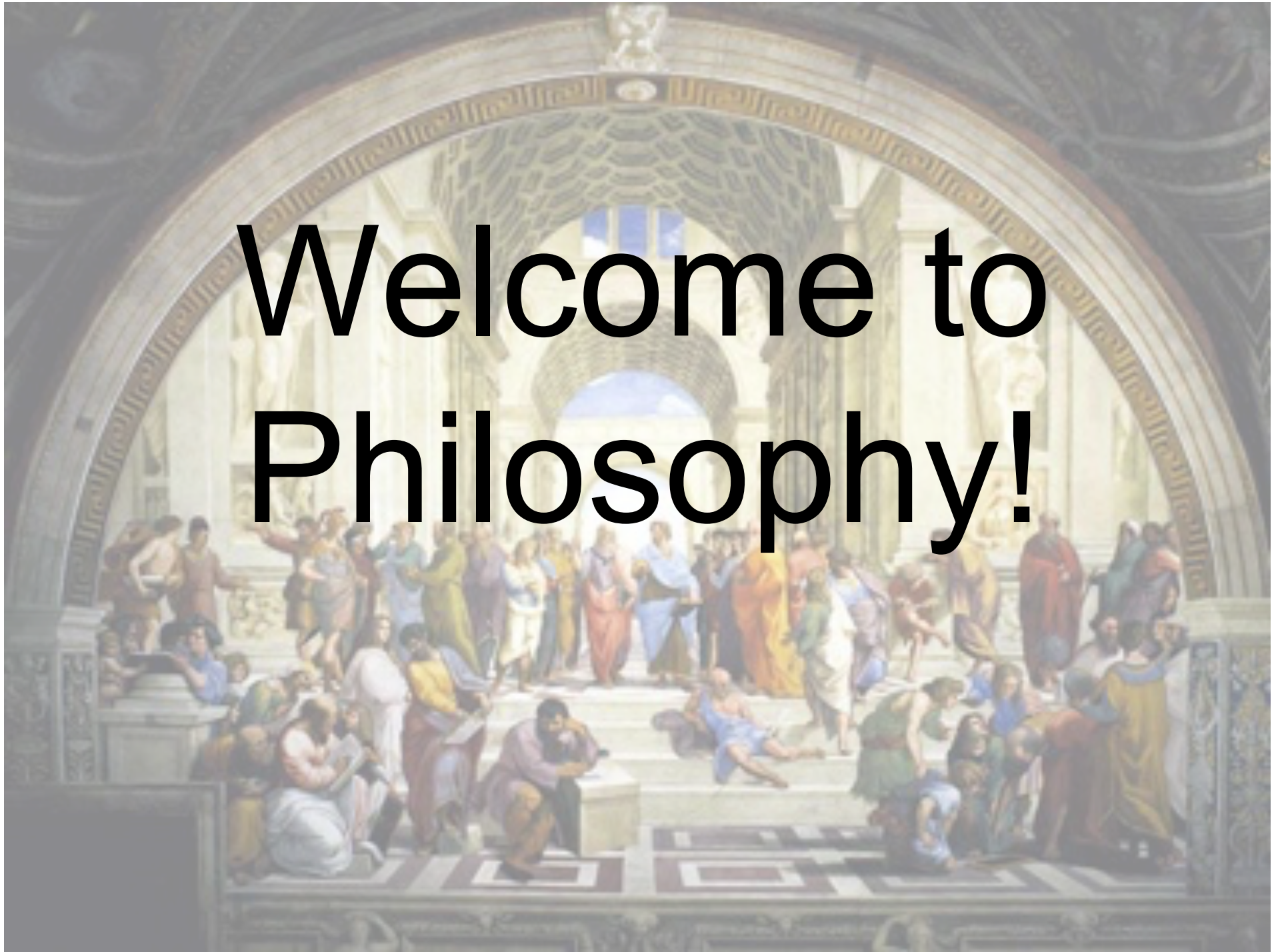
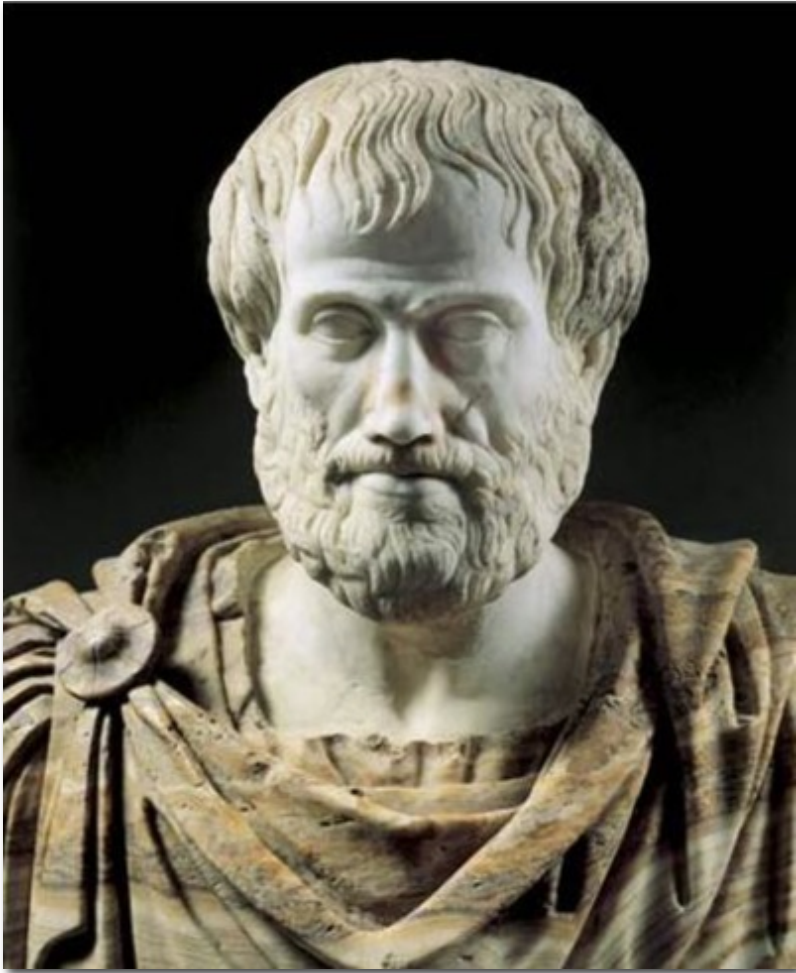


**Welcome to  
Philosophy!**





“Philosophy  
begins in  
wonder.”

— Aristotle (384-322 BCE)

# Philosophy

**is what you're doing when you keep  
asking questions  
after everyone else is satisfied  
with their answers.**

# Philosophy

**is thinking about  
how we should think about  
things we don't know how  
to think about (yet)**

Originally ...

philosophy was just

the rational

explanation of

anything

That sounds a lot like

**Science**

(philosophy as the first  
science ...)

Philosophy

asks

Fundamental  
Questions

Where did the world come from?

Is my mind just my brain?

Is there a God?

Am I free?

Is anything ever really morally right or wrong?

Can I know anything with certainty?

Is reality ultimately irrational?

Is the death of my body the end of me?

Where does value come from?

What is beauty?

What is the meaning of life?



# Areas of Philosophy

## Metaphysics (What is?)

The study of being or reality, the nature of the self, and the nature of the divine.

## Epistemology (What is the subject/object relation?)

The study of the nature of knowledge and belief, justification, and truth.

## Axiology (What *has* value? What *is* value?)

**Metaethics:** The study of the meaning of moral claims, and the nature of moral principles

**Normative Ethics:** The study of what constitutes morally correct conduct, and this requires the articulation and justification of moral principles

**Aesthetics:** The study of the nature of art and the beautiful.

**Political Philosophy:** The study of the justification of the use of force in the context of a state.

**Social Philosophy:** the study of the ideal society or social organization.

## Logic (What is good reasoning?)

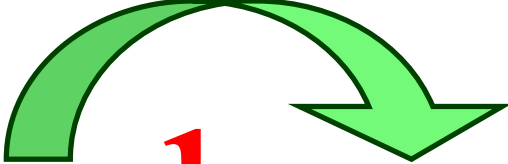
The study of the principles of good arguments or good reasoning

Philosophy

is

Theoretical

Truth



as well as

Practical

Action



Philosophy  
is about the  
nature of  
reality

... but it's also about  
how we ought  
to live.

Both **theory** and **practice**  
depend upon our

**Beliefs**

therefore ...

# Philosophy

focuses on

## (1) The justification of fundamental beliefs

Sample belief: “A world exists separate from my mind.”

## (2) the analysis of concepts in those beliefs

Sample concepts: “What do we mean by ‘world’, ‘exists’,  
‘separate from’, and ‘mind’?”

I should care about the welfare of no one but myself.

Five is the square root of twenty.

The Cubs will win the World Series this year.

# How do we arrive at our beliefs?

The good life is spent serving others.

Water freezes at 0 degrees celsius.

Mars has three moons.

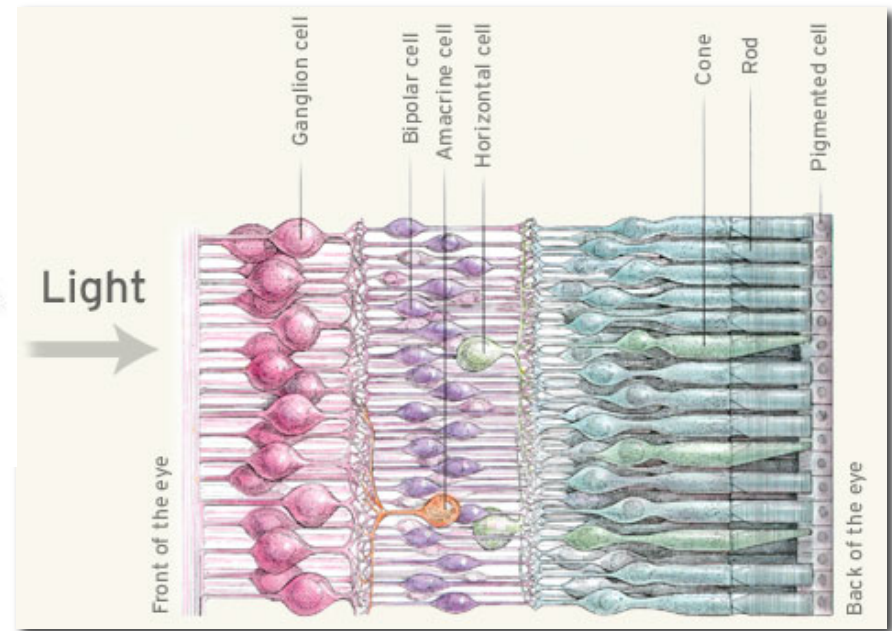
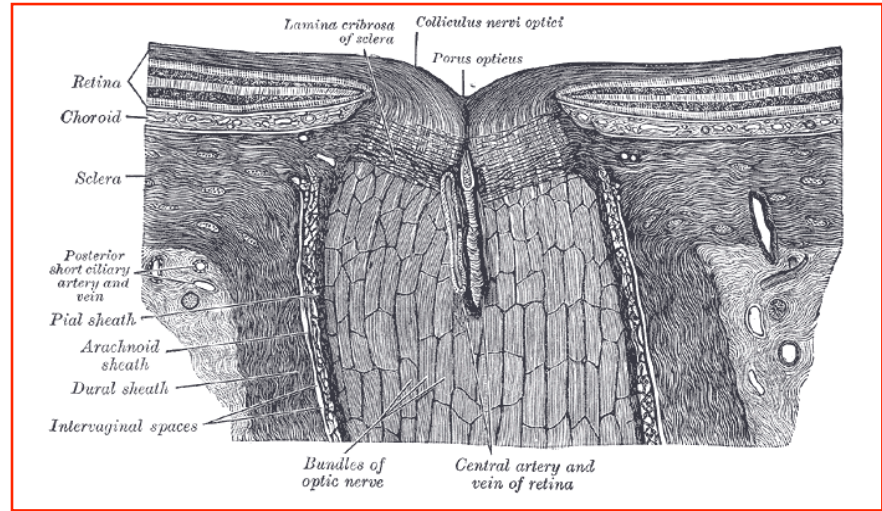
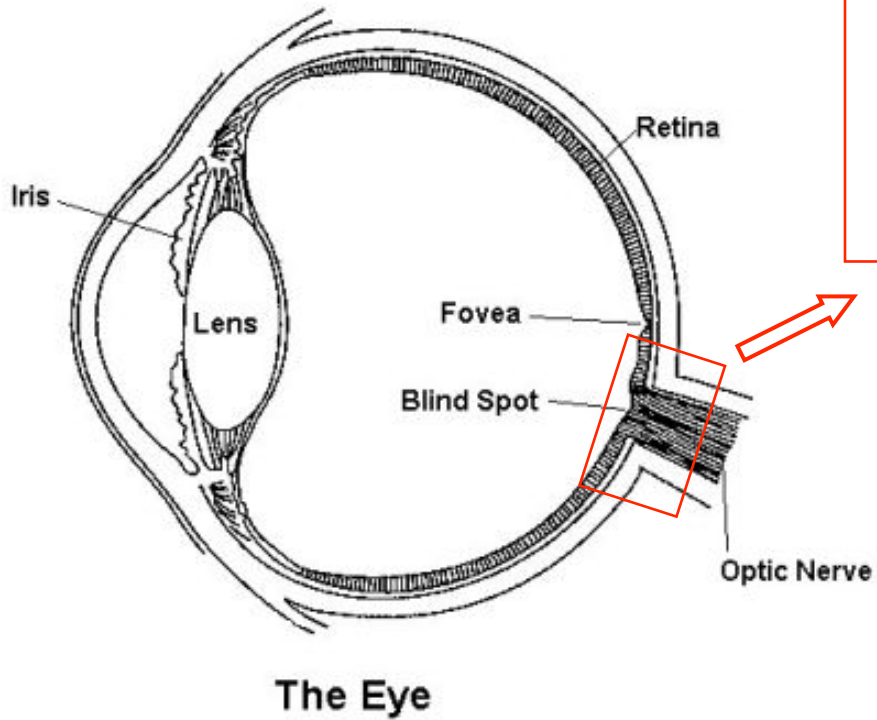
... and how do  
we justify them?



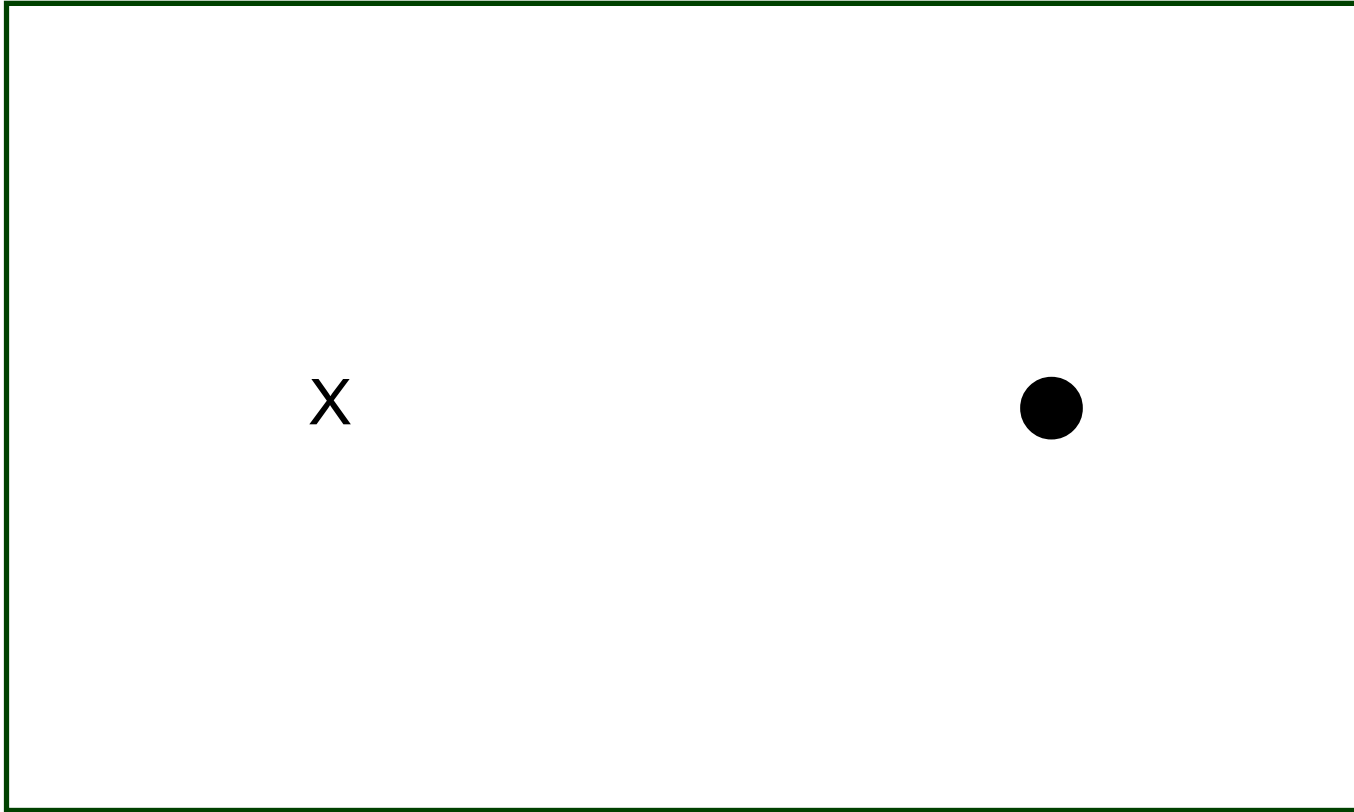
But before we  
consider any beliefs,  
let's pause to consider  
our eyeballs.



# Each human eye has a blind spot



# You can find your own blind spot

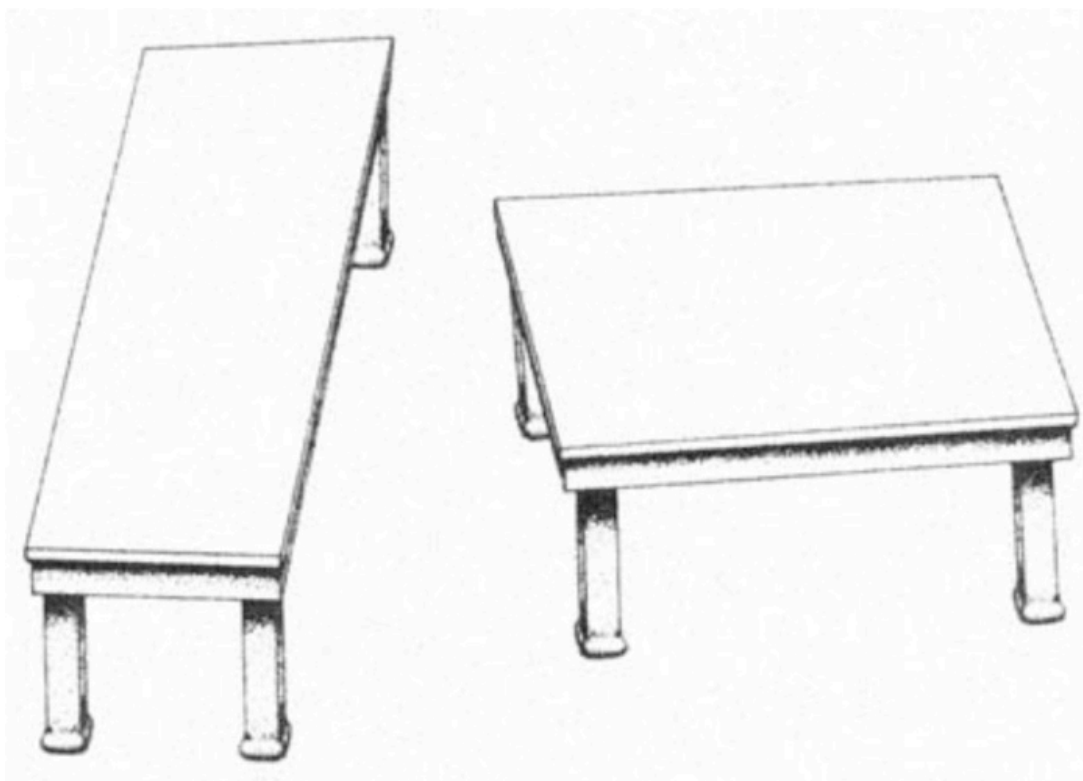


Draw a rectangle with an 'X' and a dot; hold the paper at arm's length; close your left eye and stare at the 'X' with your right eye; slowly move the paper toward you until the dot disappears.

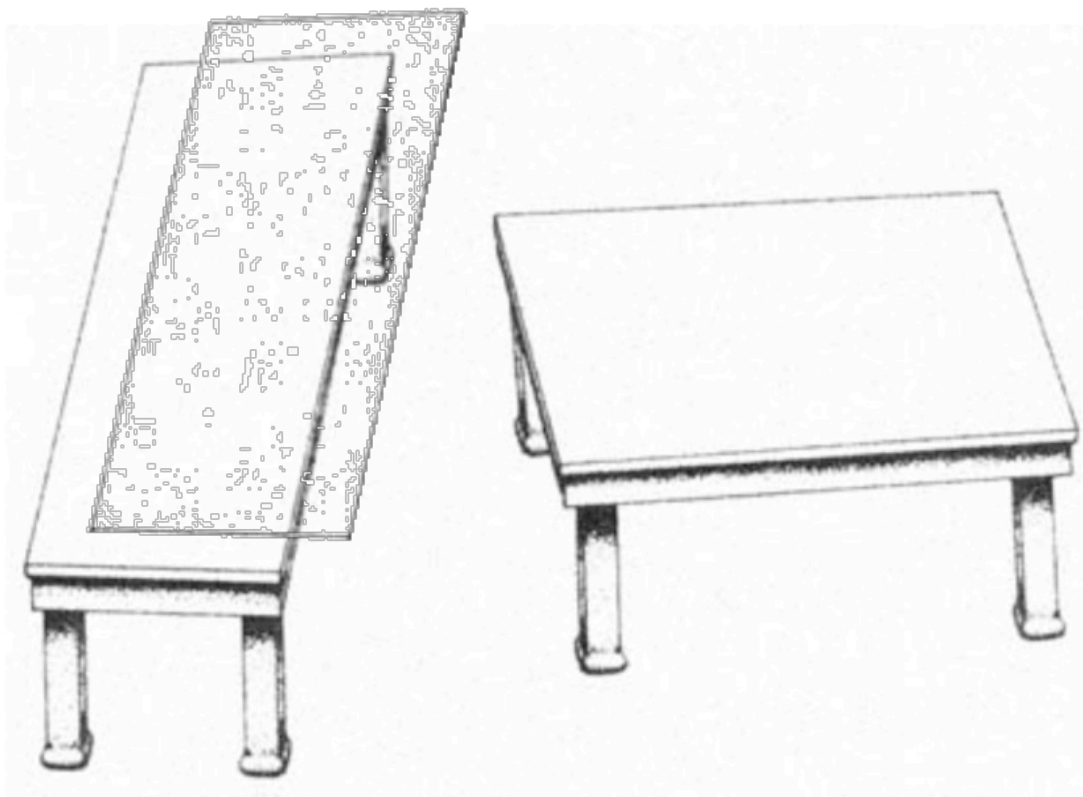
Locating our blind spots,  
and correcting for them,  
is our primary goal this  
semester.

Now, back to  
those beliefs...

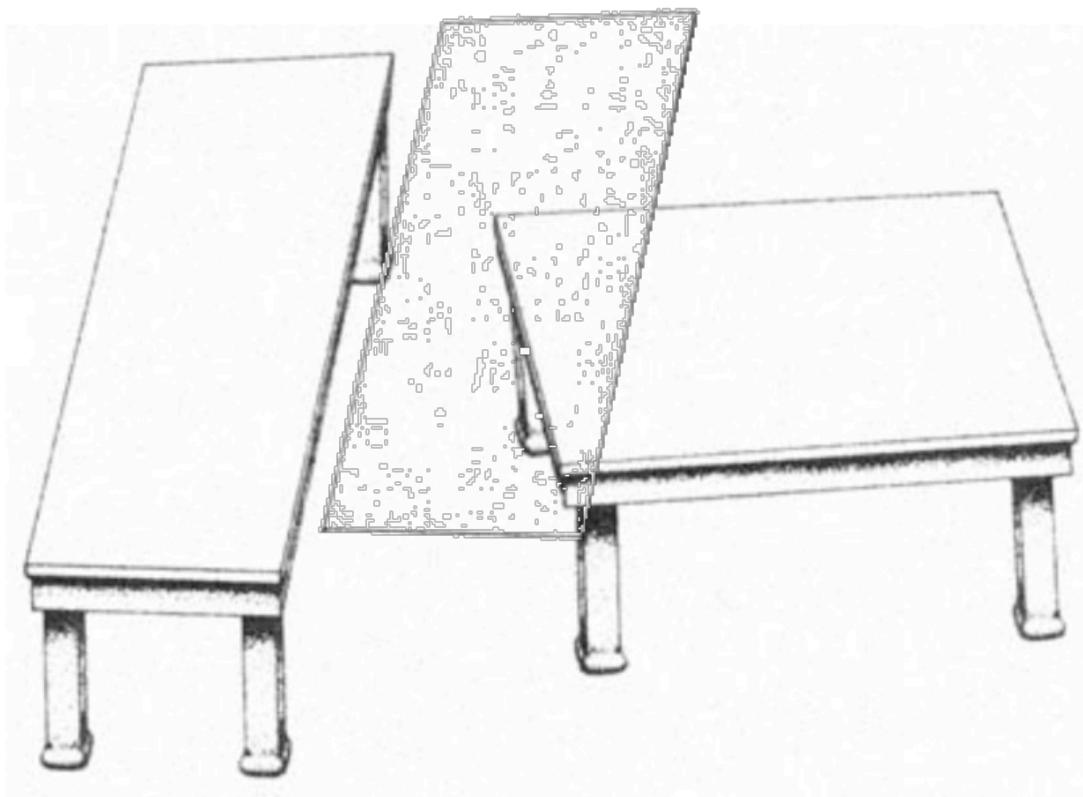
Are these two table tops the same size and shape?



Are these two table tops the same size and shape?

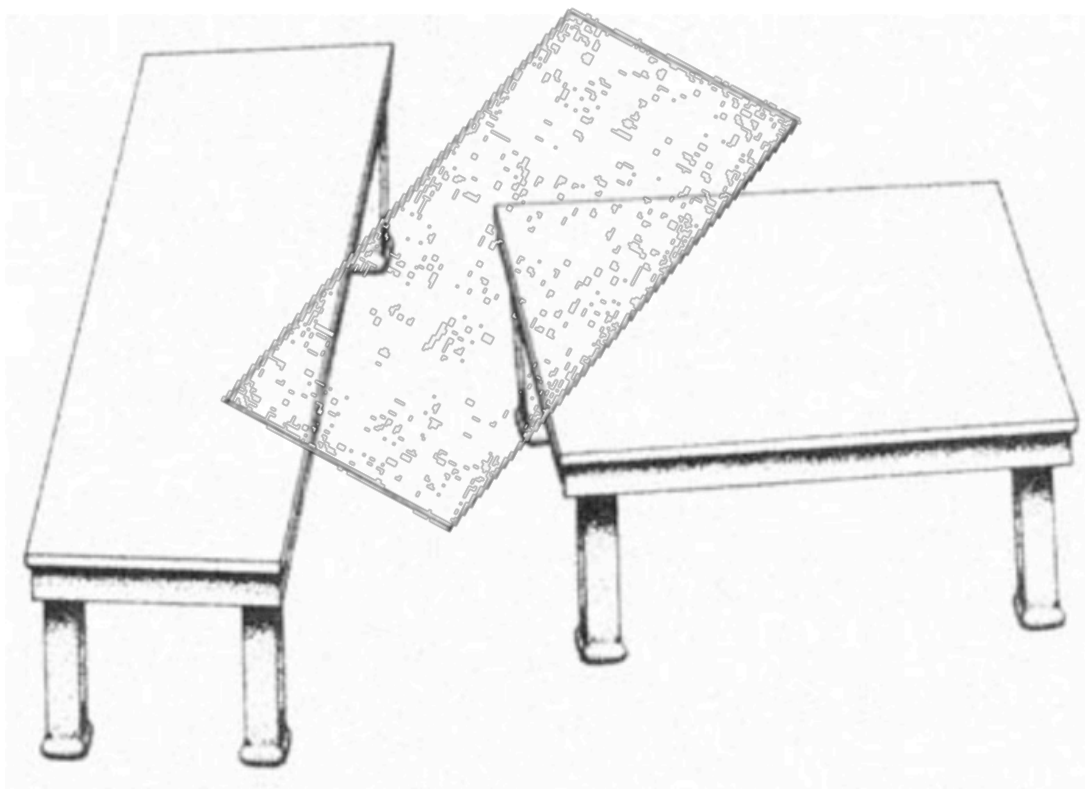


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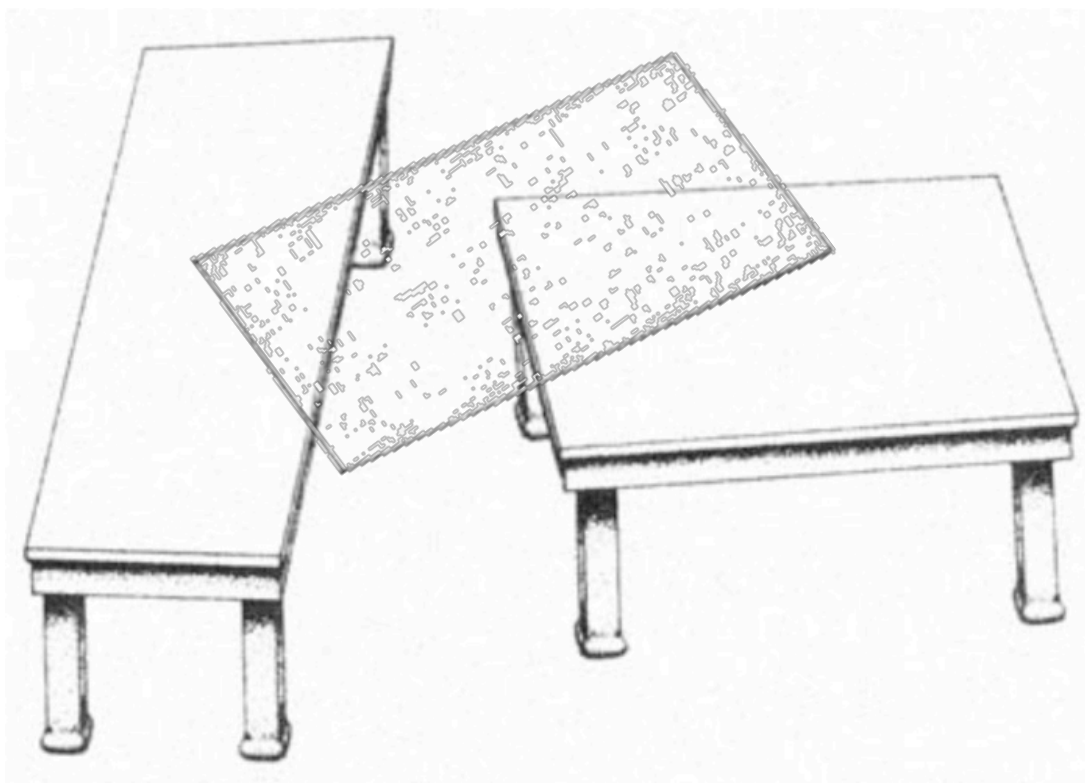




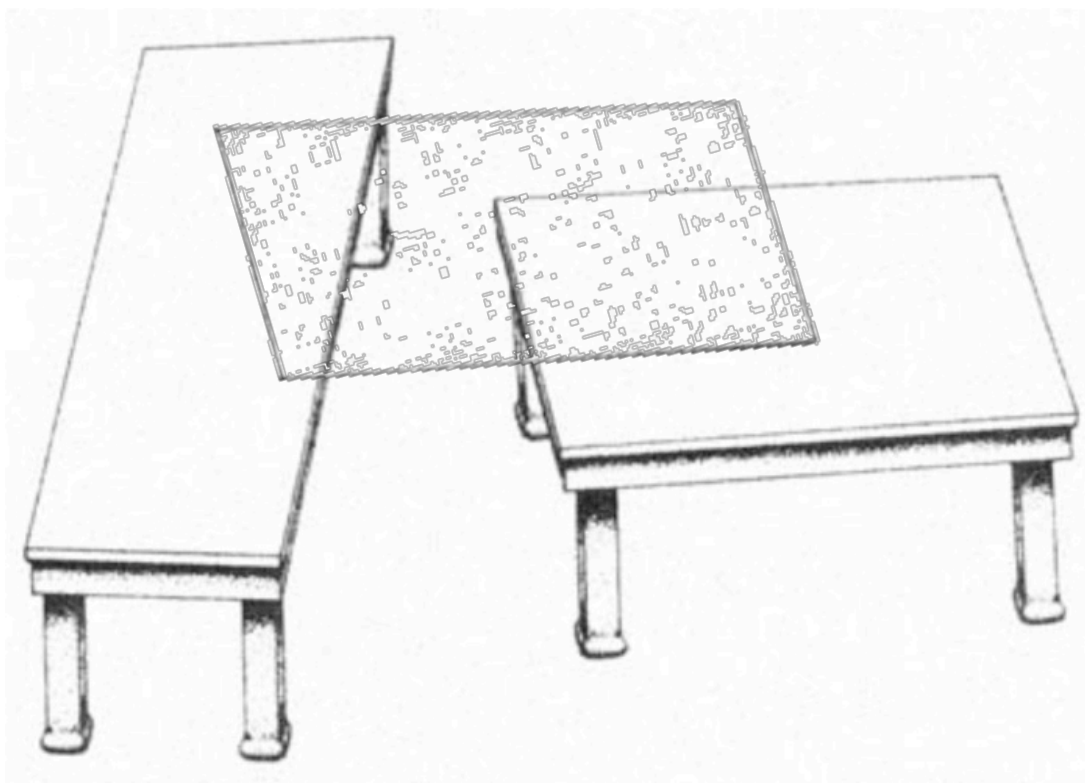
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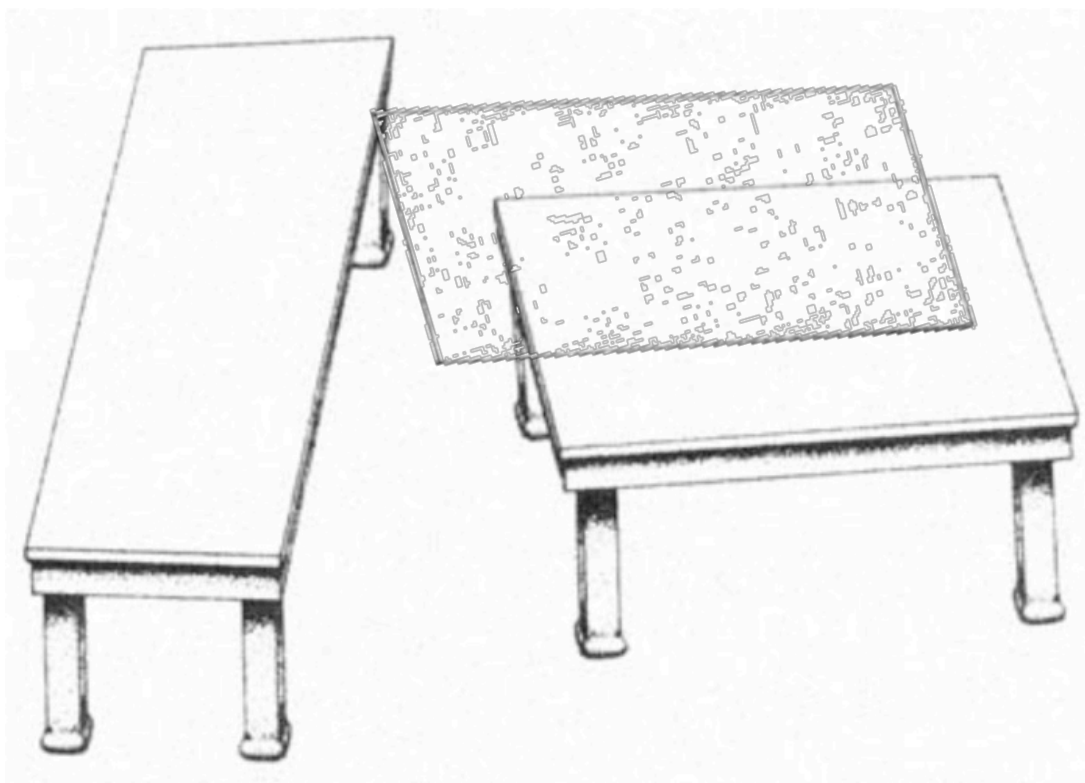
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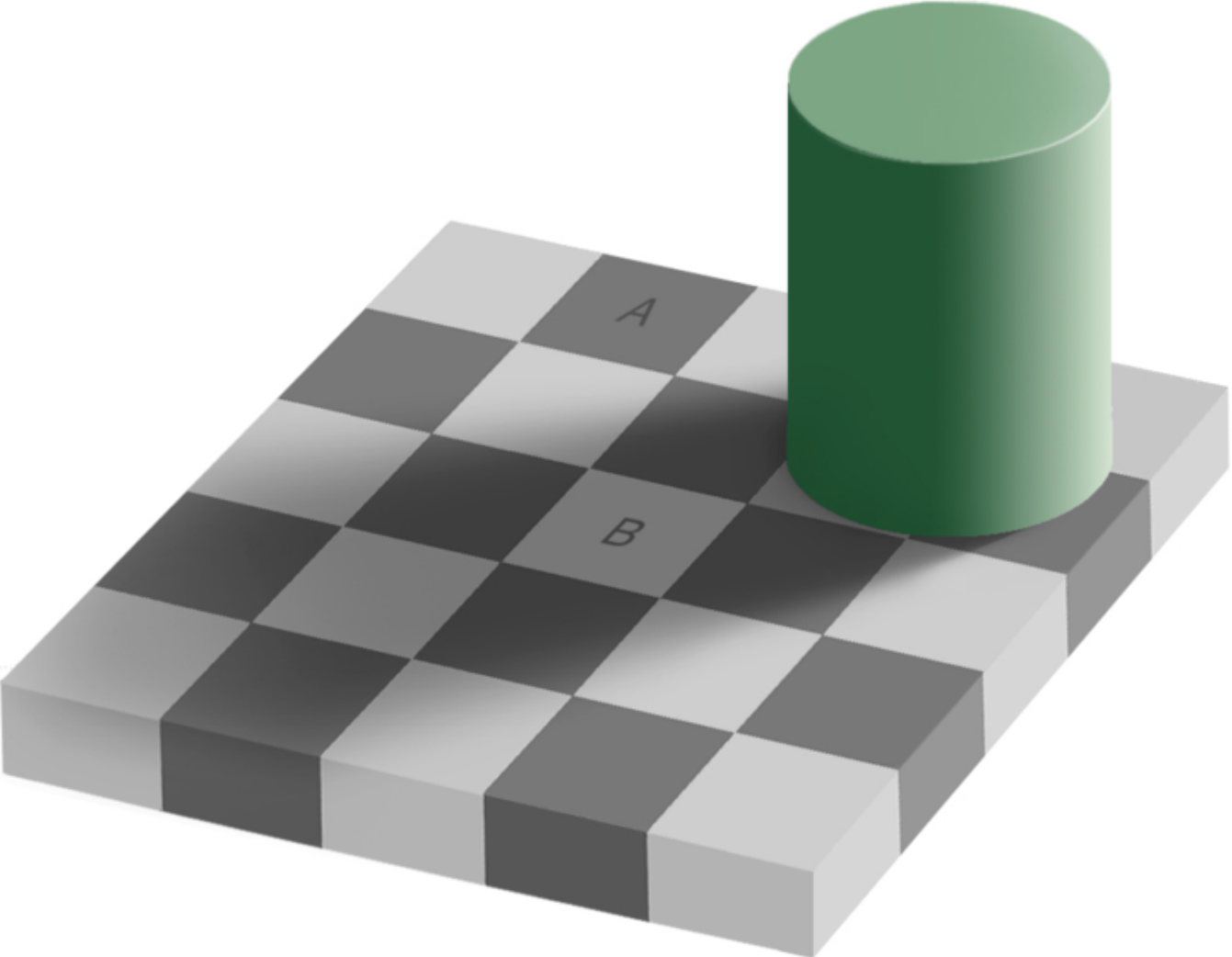
Are these two table tops the same size and shape?



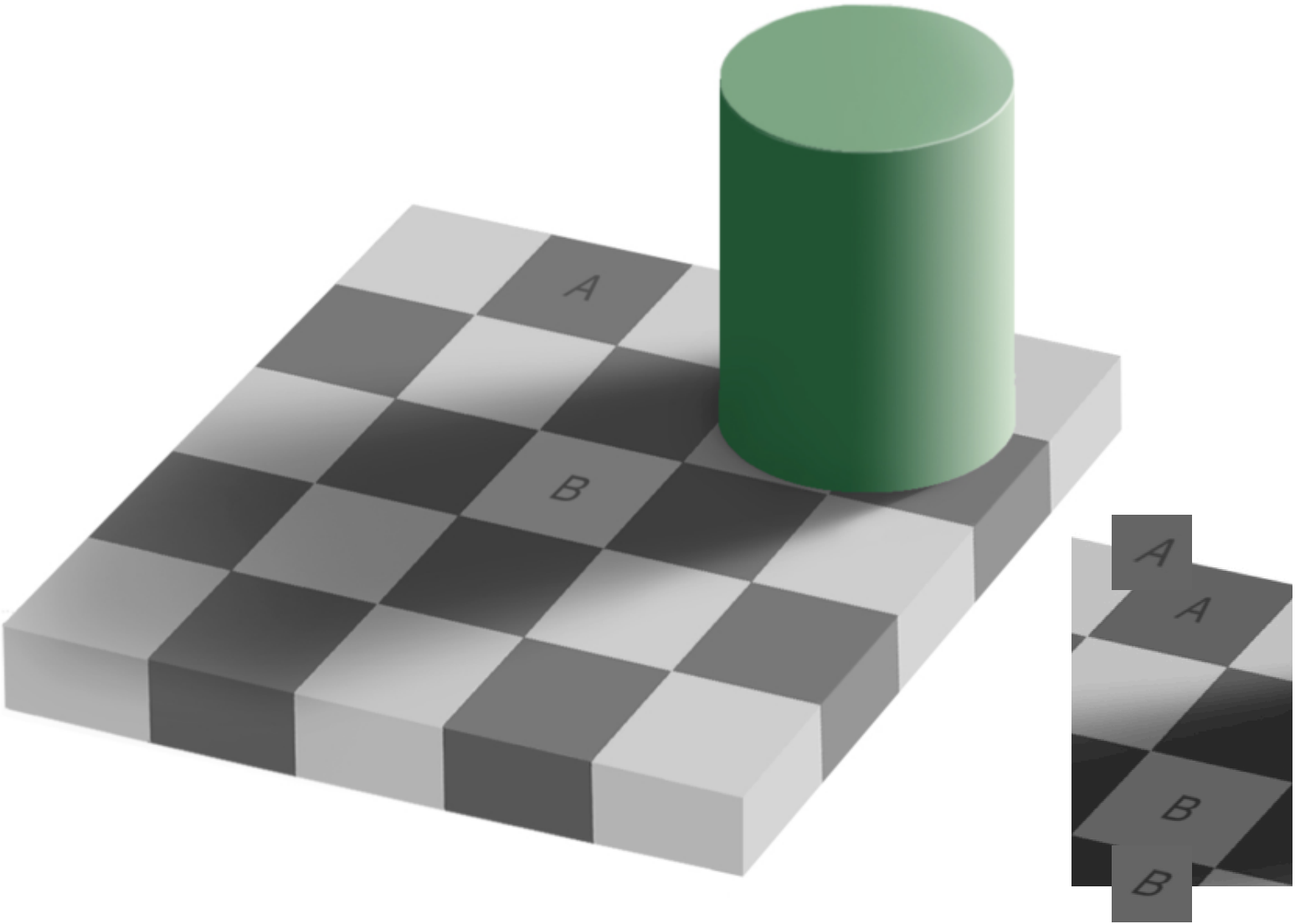
Are these two table tops the same size and shape?



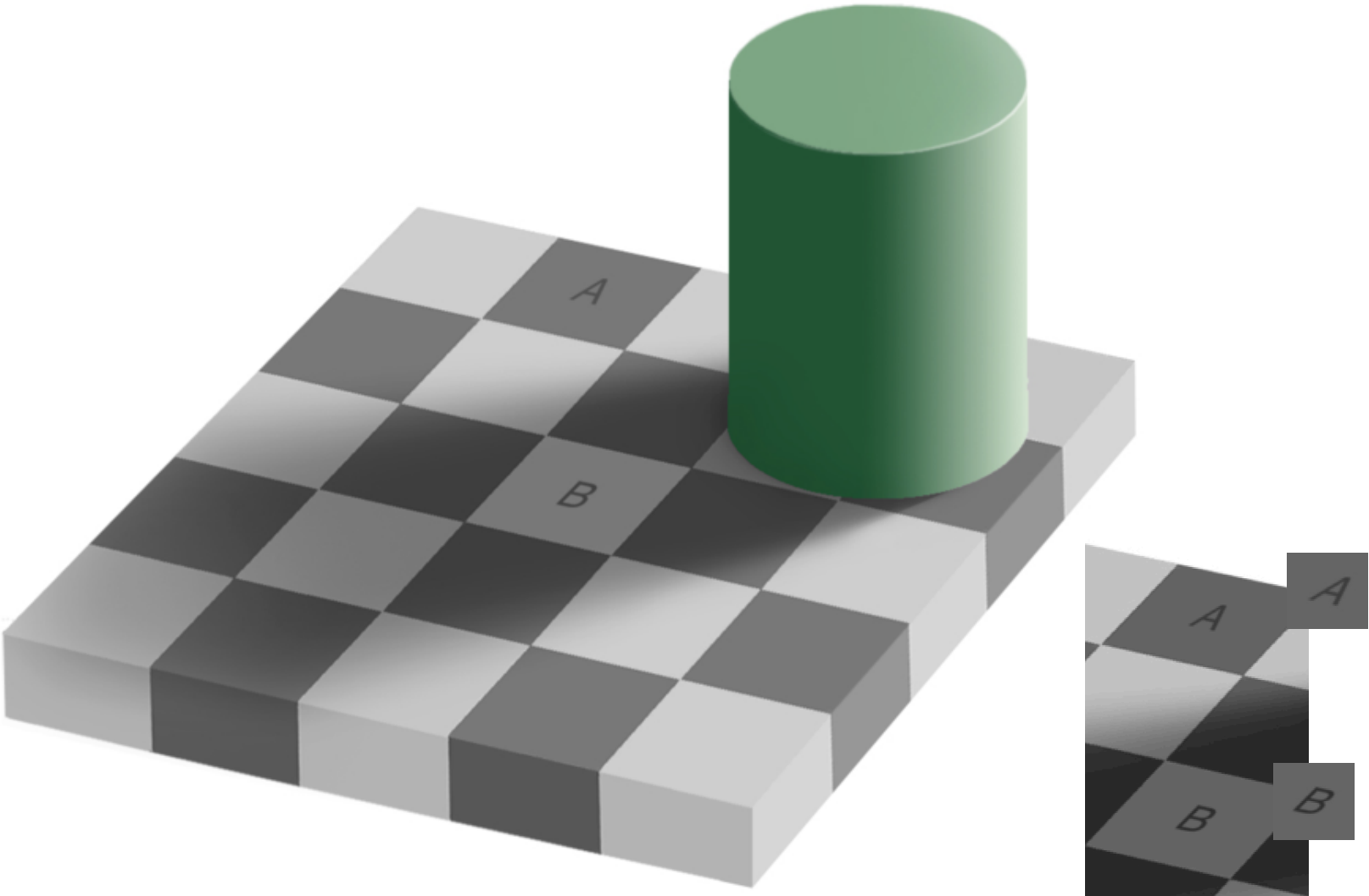
How do squares A and B compare?



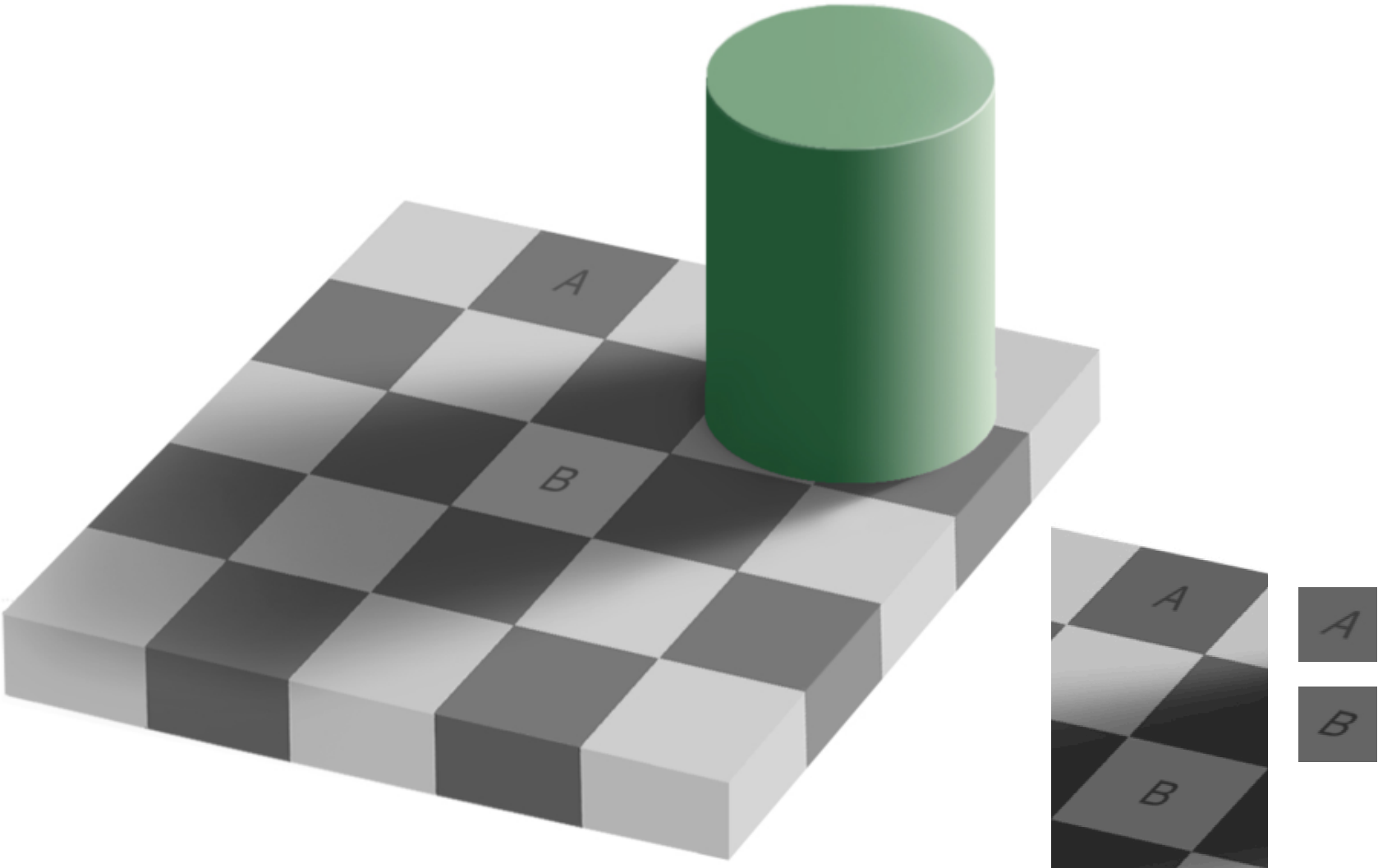
# How do squares A and B compare?



# How do squares A and B compare?



# How do squares A and B compare?





### Question #3

Is it possible that all of your beliefs are false?

Question #4

Are you free to believe whatever you  
*choose* to believe?

Can you be *forced* to believe something?

Can you force yourself to believe  
*anything*?

Question #5

Do all objects fall at the same speed,  
regardless of their weight?



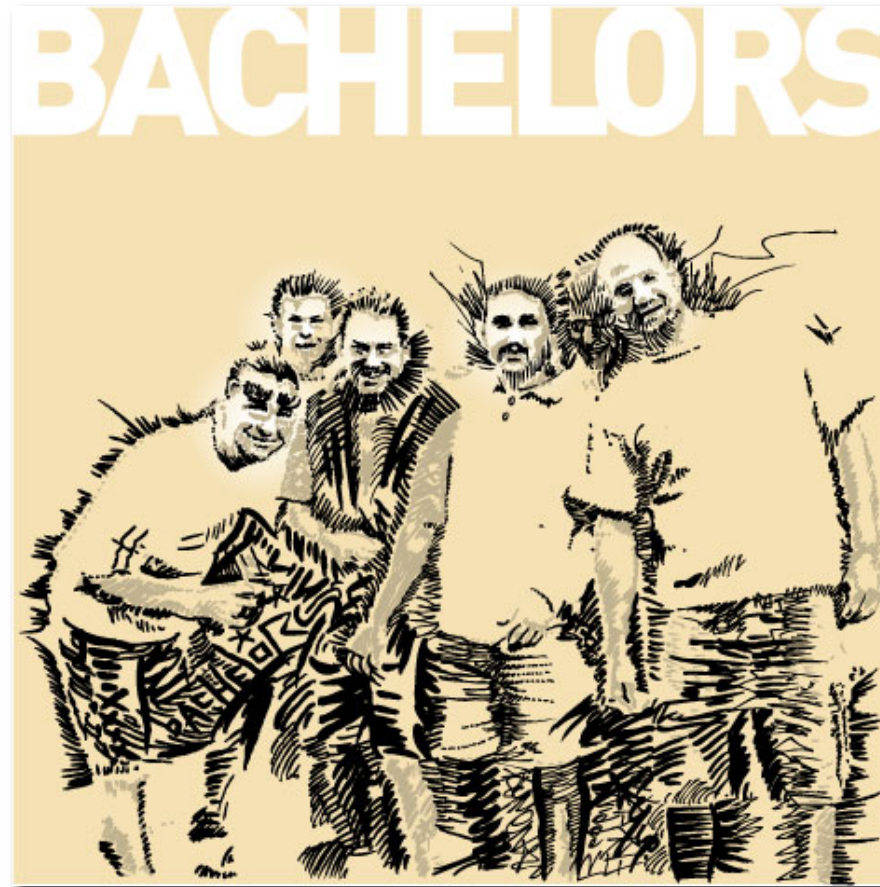
Question #6

Imagine a large lake of calm water.  
Is the surface of the water perfectly flat?



Question #7

Are all bachelors unmarried?



Question #8

If you call a tail a leg, how many legs  
has a dog?



Question #9

The background of the slide is a reproduction of the painting 'The Scream' by Edvard Munch. The painting depicts a turbulent, orange and red sky over a dark, swirling sea. In the foreground, a figure stands on a bridge, looking out at the water. The overall mood is one of intense emotional distress and mental anguish.

**What is the  
meaning of life?**

# Discuss in your Groups

What is the difference between

“proving X”

and

“having evidence for X”?

[**facilitators**: start and stop the discussion, and keep it on track]

[**monitors**: make sure everyone’s ideas are heard]

[**recorders**: write down your group answer. When done, go to the board...]



# Proof and Evidence

**Proving X** = I know that X is true.

**Having evidence for X** = I have some reason to believe that X is true.

**Proof** is evidence that makes truth either **certain** (as with mathematical/deductive proofs) or **very likely** (strong inductive arguments).

**Evidence** is just “a reason to believe.”