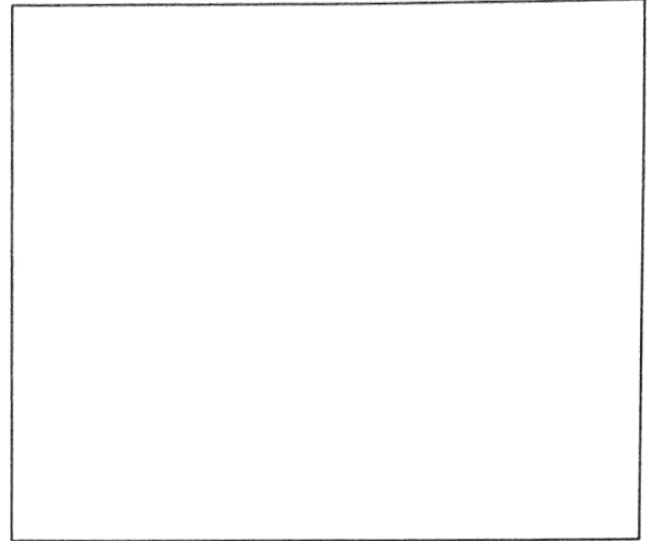
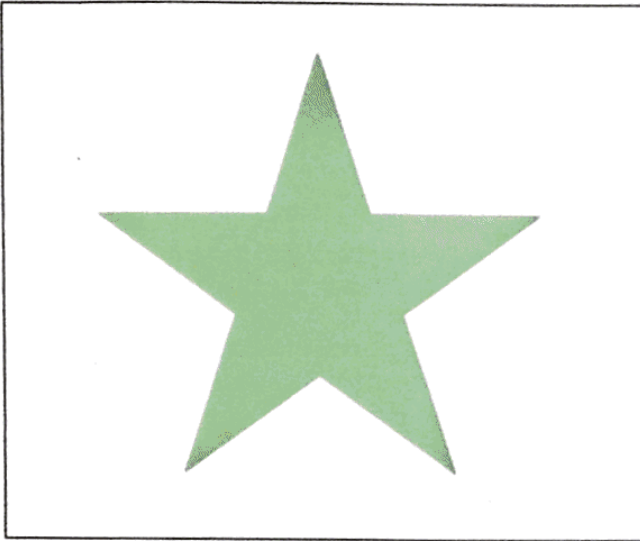


Stars in your eyes

In bright light, look at the green star in the box below for about 30 seconds and then look at white box beside it. What do you see?



What's happening?

You should see a red star or "afterimage" in the white box (and similarly, you would see a green afterimage for a red star). When you look at a green image for a long time the green cones cells in your eye are stimulated so much that after a while they adapt to the light and lose their sensitivity. When you then start looking at the white box you see white light of the background minus the green (as the green cones are temporarily not working), leaving the red light and red afterimage behind (the red cones are still functioning normally). Other pairs of colours will also give colour afterimages: blue and yellow, and black and white.

In bright light, stare at the flag below for 30 seconds and then look at a white piece of paper....can you see the union jack?

Could you
any other
swapping
colours
to make the
correctly
coloured
afterimage?



draw
flags by
the
around