The eye and eyelid

- The eye works in a similar way to a camera. Light enters the eye and is focused onto the retina, the light-sensitive surface at the back of the eye.
- The clear window at the front of the eye is the cornea, which provides coarse focusing power. A lens lies behind the iris, the coloured part of the eye, and does the fine focusing. Muscles attached to the lens can change its shape, so light can be focused when looking at close or distant objects.
- The pupil is the black hole in the middle of the iris. Its size can change to control the amount of light reaching the retina, like the aperture in a camera. In dim light, the pupil gets wider to let more light into the eye, and in bright light it gets smaller to reduce the amount of light entering.
- The retina changes the image of the outside world into electrical impulses, which travel to the brain along the optic nerve.
- The eyelids protect and clean the front of the eye. The upper eyelid blinks and washes tears over the surface of the eye. Tears are formed by glands around the eye and in the eyelids. Tears drain out of the eyes and into the nose through channels called tear ducts.
- Muscles attached to the surface of the eyes allow them to move exactly together. Both eyes are protected by the orbital bone, except at the front.