

# Horse's Tail

*Your visual system uses edges to see where one object ends and another begins.*

## Try this:

- With the rope hanging down, compare the right and left sides of the board.
- Now lift up the rope. Has your perception of the two sides changed?

## What's going on?

In fact, both sides of the board are identical. Each side gets lighter from left to right, which creates an edge in the center (where the lighter side of the left half meets the darker side of the right half).

When this edge is visible, your visual system uses it to determine the appearance of the whole board. When the edge is covered, you perceive the board differently: You see it as a single, uniformly white surface, even though it's not.