

THE EYE

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The eye is a complex and highly developed photosensitive organ located in protective bony structures of the skull, the orbits. Each eye is composed of three concentric layers: an external layer that consists of the sclera and the cornea; a middle layer—also called the vascular layer—consisting of the choroid, ciliary body and iris and an inner layer of nerve tissue, the retina, which consists of an outer pigment epithelium and an inner retina proper. The photosensitive retina proper is part of the central nervous system and communicates with the cerebrum through the optic nerve and extends forward to the ora serrata.

The lens of the eye is a biconvex transparent structure held in place by a circular system of fibers, the zonule, that extends from the lens into a thickening of the middle layer, the ciliary body, and by close apposition to the vitreous body on its posterior side. Partly covering the anterior surface of the lens is an opaque pigmented expansion of the middle layer called the iris. The round hole in the middle of the iris is the pupil.