



CATCHING A BIRD

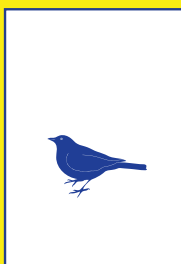
MATERIALS:

- SMALL INDEX CARDS
- PEN, PENCIL OR STRAW
- TAPE

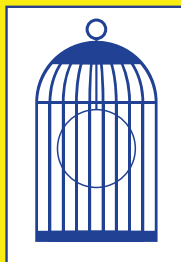


PROCEDURE:

1. Draw a picture of a bird on a small index card.



2. On another card of the same size, draw a cage.



3. Now tape the two cards, drawing sides out, on opposite sides of a pen, pencil or straw.
4. Spin the straw between your hands or fingers. Is your bird still free, or did you catch it and put it in the cage?

WHAT THIS MEANS:

Why does the bird appear to be in the cage? It appears to be caged because of how your eyes and brain work. When you see the image of the bird, your brain holds onto the image for a short time – even though the image appears and disappears quickly. The same thing happens with the image of the cage. The two images actually overlap in your brain, so the bird appears to be in the cage. The technical name for this effect is persistence. Animation artists actually follow this same process to create cartoons. But, rather than using just two images, animation is composed of many different images, all drawn in a way to suggest motion to our minds. Basically what happens is the artist draws the cartoon characters in multiple sequential images and presents them to us in a manner that causes our minds to fill in the missing pieces.

GLOSSARY:

Animation: The technique of photographing successive drawings or positions of puppets or models to create an illusion of movement when the movie is shown as a sequence






Motion: The action or process of moving or being moved

Persistence: The continued or prolonged existence of something

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