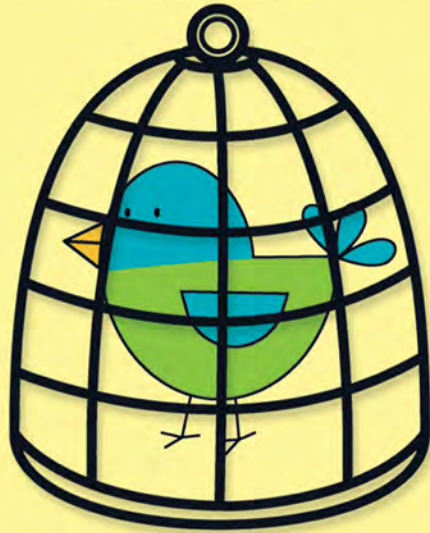


Catch the birdie

Try this activity to find out how your brain can trick your eyes.



1. Make two circles on a piece of thin white card, by drawing around a mug twice. Then cut them out.

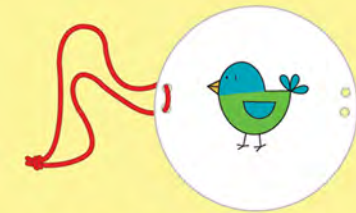
Make the cage a bit bigger than the bird.



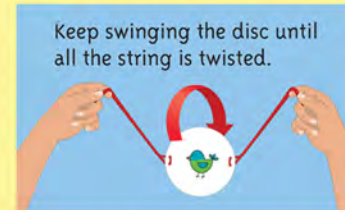
2. Draw a bird on one circle and a cage on the other. Turn the cage upside down. Glue them together back to back.



3. Use a hole puncher to make two holes on either side of the cage. Cut two pieces of string as long as your arm.



4. Thread a piece of string through one pair of holes, like this. Knot the ends. Do the same on the other side.



Keep swinging the disc until all the string is twisted.

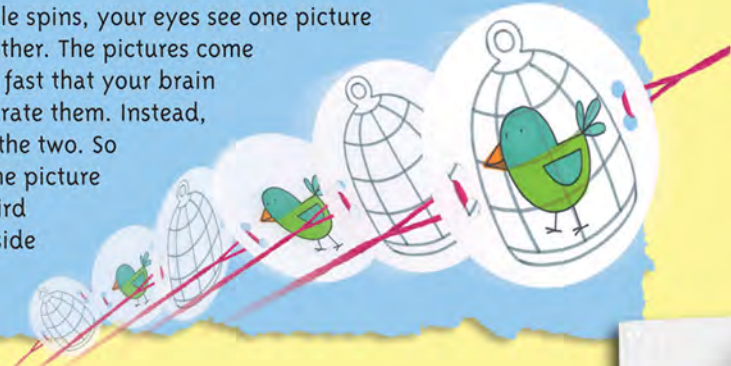


5. Hold the knots so that the circle hangs down. Flip the circle over and around until the string is twisted up tightly.

6. Now, with both hands, pull the string tight. This makes the circle spin around really fast. What can you see?

What's going on?

As the circle spins, your eyes see one picture after the other. The pictures come around so fast that your brain can't separate them. Instead, it merges the two. So you see one picture — of the bird caught inside the cage.



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