



Cartoon - How do the pictures in a cartoon move?

Fact

- A cartoon is actually made up of lots of pictures called frames.
- Each picture is slightly different from the ones before and after it.
- When the pictures are shown quickly one after another we seem to see a moving picture.
- When we look at an image our eyes send a message to our brain about that image.
- Our brains hold on to the image for a fraction of a second longer than your eyes see it.
- If a number of images which are slightly different from each other are shown quickly one after the other then the brain blends all those pictures together to give the illusion of a moving picture.

Do you know

- The reason we see cartoon pictures move is something called persistence of vision.
- For many years cartoons were drawn picture by picture (frame-by-frame) by hand and there could be thousands of pictures (frames) in a cartoon!
- These days computers help to draw the images and speed up the work but the idea is still the same: lots of pictures slightly different from each other shown quickly one after the other

Experiments you can do

Make your own flip toy

What you need:

2 pieces of card 8 cm by 8 cm

tape

felt pens/crayons or coloured pencils

A pencil/straw or stick

What you do:

Draw a picture on one of the pieces of card. Then draw the same image but with something changed on it. We drew a bird with its wings down on one card and the bird with its wings up on the other card.

Tape the cards together and onto the pencil/straw or stick. Tape it well so it won't slide around or fall off.

Hold the pencil/straw or stick between the palms of your hand with one of the pictures facing you. Rub your hands together so the pencil/straw or stick twirls. Watch your flip toy image change.

Jokes

Why did the cartoon character go to jail? He was framed.