Eyes - How does the eye work?

Fact
- Light passes into the eye through the pupil (the black dot in the centre of your eye) and forms an upside down picture of what you are looking at on your retina which is a sensitive message receptor.
- The optic nerve sends messages to your brain about the picture.
- Then the brain turns the picture the right way up again.

Do you know
- You get two different pictures, one from each eye.
- Your brain puts the two pictures together.
- Your eyeball is full of a gel-like liquid called vitreous. (vit-re-os)
- The dark centre of your eye is called the pupil. The pupil changes size according to the amount of light available. When there is little light to see by the pupil opens up wide to let as much light as possible into the eye so you can see more clearly.
- Herbivores (animals that eat plants) that have to run away from their predators (enemies) need eyes on the sides of their heads so they can see all around them.
- Carnivores (animals that eat meat) need two eyes facing forward to help them judge distances when they pounce on their prey.

Experiments you can do
Make a cartoon flip book using small squares of paper. Draw a simple picture, like a stick figure, on the first page. Draw the picture again on the next page with a slight change. Keep drawing the picture, with little changes each time, until you are complete.
Hold your book along one edge in one hand and flip the pages with your other hand to see your pictures move.

Other Investigations
Draw a large open mouth on a small square of paper. On the other side of the paper draw a fish wiggly worm. Tape the square of paper securely to the end of a pencil. Hold the pencil between both hands and spin the pencil. Watch the picture closely. What happens?

Jokes
Did you hear about the cross-eyed teachers? They couldn’t control their pupils!