



The Persistence of **MEMORY**



Name: _____

Memory is a person's ability to retain and retrieve learned information and knowledge of past events and experiences. Tiny connections between brain cells help us remember the thoughts, skills, experiences and knowledge that make each of us unique. Throughout our lives, our memories are constantly being created, reviewed, and sorted by the brain. Each of the artists involved in this show have been asked to consider how their own memories, both good and bad, have shaped their personalities and inspired their current actions and beliefs.

What is your earliest memory? Which of your senses are clearest in this memory (smells, sounds, feelings, etc.)?

What are two of your favourite childhood memories? Why are they your favourite? Create a quick sketch of each here:





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You get to school and realize you forgot your lunch at home. You take a test and you can't remember half the answers. You see the new kid who just joined your class, and you can't remember his name. Some days, it seems like your brain is taking a holiday – you can't remember anything! Here are some activities to test your memory – and some things you can try to help you remember things better!



Memory Solitaire #1

On the next page there are pictures of 20 different things. You will be given two minutes to look at the pictures. When two minutes is up, write down as many of the things as you can remember below. How many of the 20 things did you remember?

Tell Yourself a Story #2

On the next page there are pictures of 20 different things. Just as you did in the previous memory game, you are going to turn the page, look at the pictures for 2 minutes, then try to write down as many of the things as you can remember. This time, however, while you are looking at the pictures, make up a story that has all those things in it. If you were looking at the pictures in the last game, you might make up a story about a **cat** named Charlie (which starts with **C**) who was riding a **bicycle** and chasing a **dog**. A **truck** pulled out in front of him and swerved into a **wagon** filled with **apples**. The cat was shocked so he stopped for a cup of **coffee** and a slice of warm **cake...** **It's ok if the story is silly. Try to** imagine the story as you tell it to yourself, picturing the cat on the bicycle and the dog it was chasing and so on.

Now try it yourself with the pictures on the next page. After two minutes, write down as many of the things as you can remember on your piece of paper. How did you do this time?

Memory Solitaire #1

C



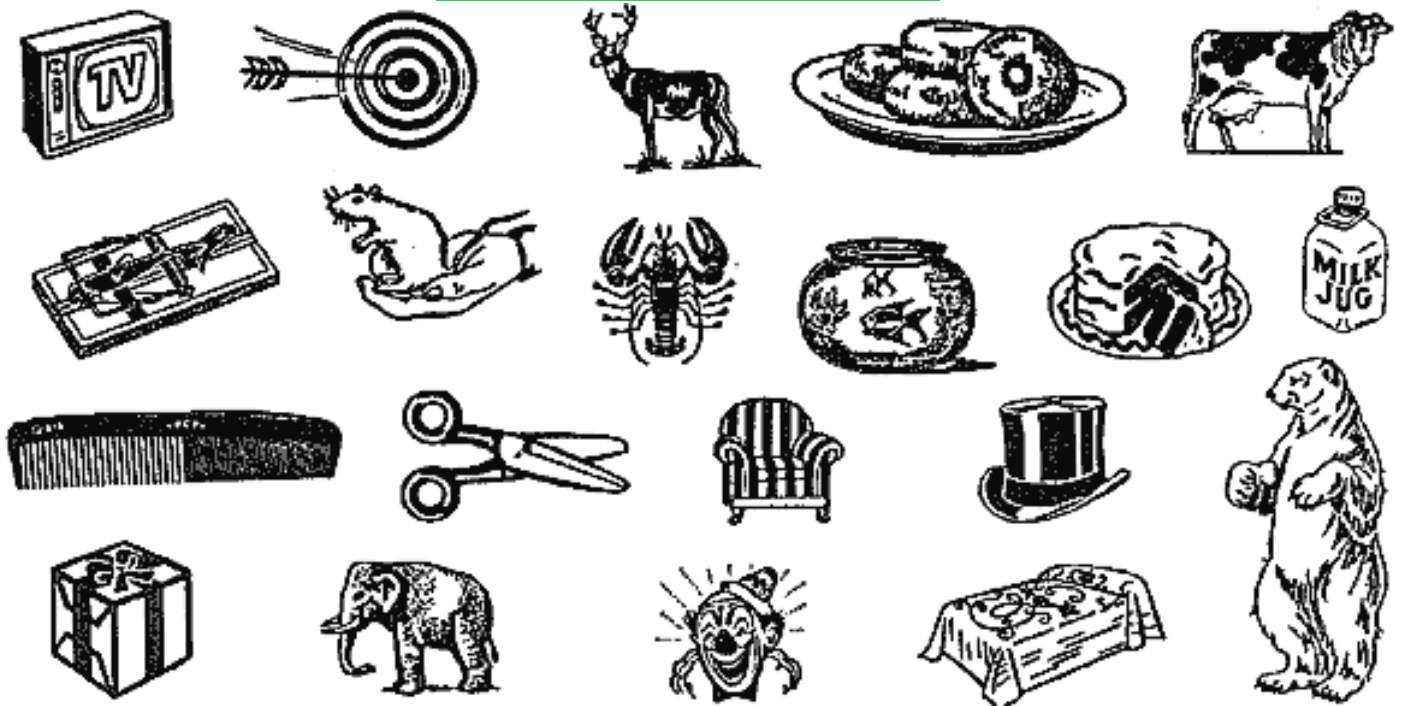
DID YOU KNOW?

Practicing memorizing things a lot will **not** make you any better at remembering them!

In 1927, a scientist tested 187 university students on their ability to memorize all sorts of things. Some students practiced memorizing these things. Other students learned techniques for remembering things, and some did nothing at all. When the scientist tested the students again, the group that had learned techniques for memorizing things did much better on the test than the others. The students who had practiced memorizing things and the students who did nothing at all did about the same on the test as they did before.

So you don't get better at memorizing things just by doing it more. **But you can get better by learning some clever tricks that help you out.**

Tell Yourself a Story #2



DROODLES

A droodle is a combination of a doodle and a riddle. Playing with these droodles lets you exercise your memory and your creativity and discover what makes some things easier to remember than others.

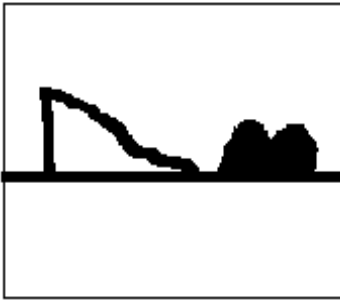
1. Spend a few moments looking at each droodle on this page. Try to remember the droodle and the title that goes with it. Then turn the page and try to draw the droodle that goes with each title. They're in a different order than they were before. When you're done check your drawings and move on to step two.



Blish



Cert

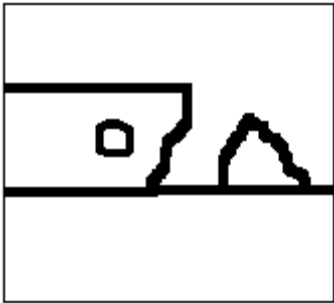


Rist



Teaf

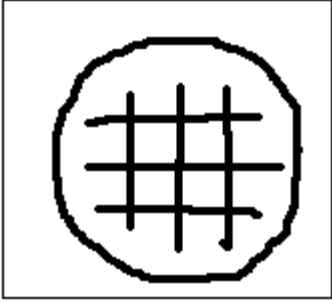
2. Take a look at these new droodles. Once again, try to memorize the droodle that goes with each title. Turn to the next page and try to draw the droodle that goes with each name. Again, they're in a different order.



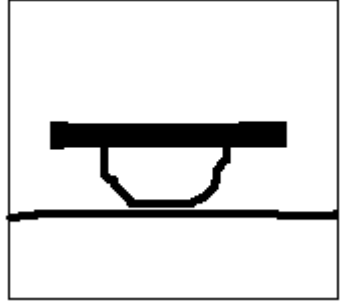
Titanic hits iceberg



Inchworm on roller-skates



Elephant steps on waffle



Fried egg sunny-side down

1. Doodles



Rist



Teaf

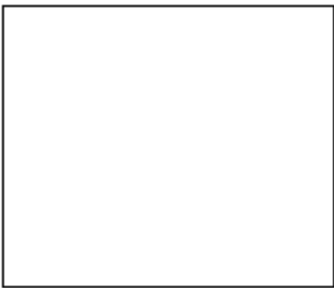


Blish



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2. Doodles



Elephant steps on
waffle



Fried egg sunny-
side down



Titanic hits
iceberg



Inchworm on roll-
er-skates

If you're like most people, you did better drawing the doodles when the title made the picture into a joke. Without these titles, the doodles are just meaningless squiggles. Memorizing meaningless stuff is hard. It's easiest to remember stuff that makes sense to you and connects with other stuff you know. One way to remember more things for a longer time is to use what scientists call "elaborative encoding." "Encoding" is another word for transforming something into a memory. "Elaborative encoding" lets you connect new information to memories that you already have, and that helps you remember the new information.

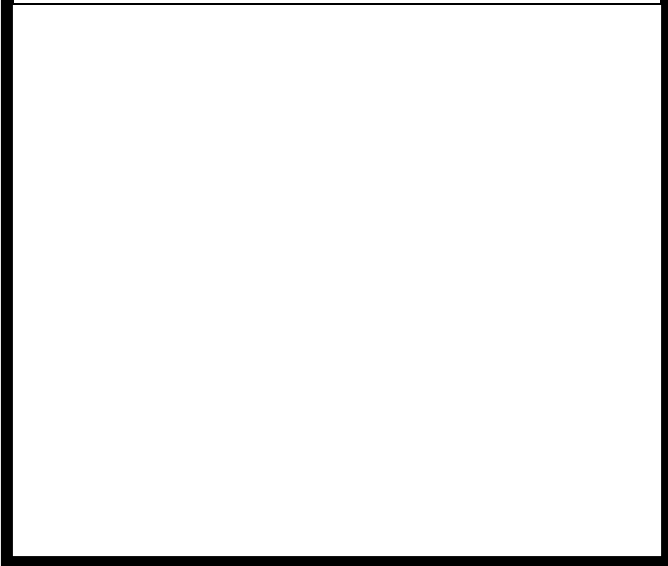
Memory Party Game

With the help of a few friends, you can test your memory and compare it to your friends' memories. First, gather 20 different objects. If you're having a party, you can ask each person who's coming to bring something for the game. If you're playing with your family, each person could gather a few objects. These should be things that are not related to each other. You might want to get some things from the kitchen -- like a can opener and a potato masher -- and some from the bedroom -- like a left shoe and a tie. All the players close their eyes while all the objects are put out on the table or floor and covered with a towel. Then the players open their eyes. Remove the towel so everyone has two minutes to memorize all the items. After two minutes, cover the objects with the towel, and each player writes down all the objects he or she can remember. Finally you uncover the objects and everyone can find out how they did.

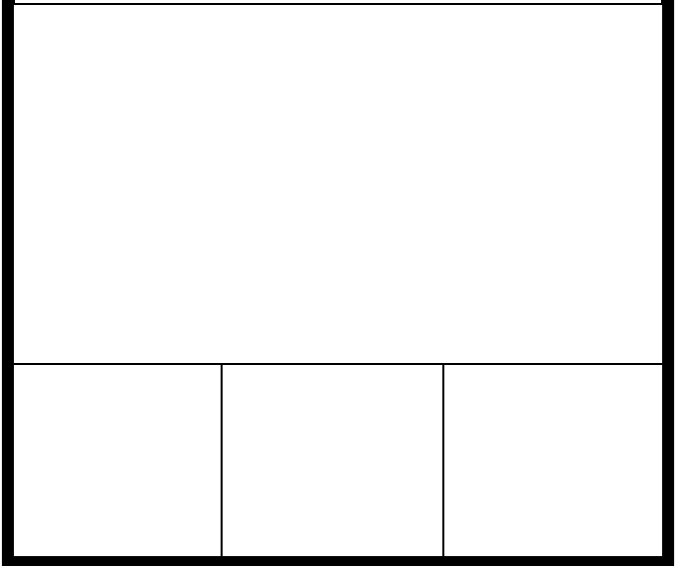
How many of the 20 things did you remember? How did your friends do?

Creation Station

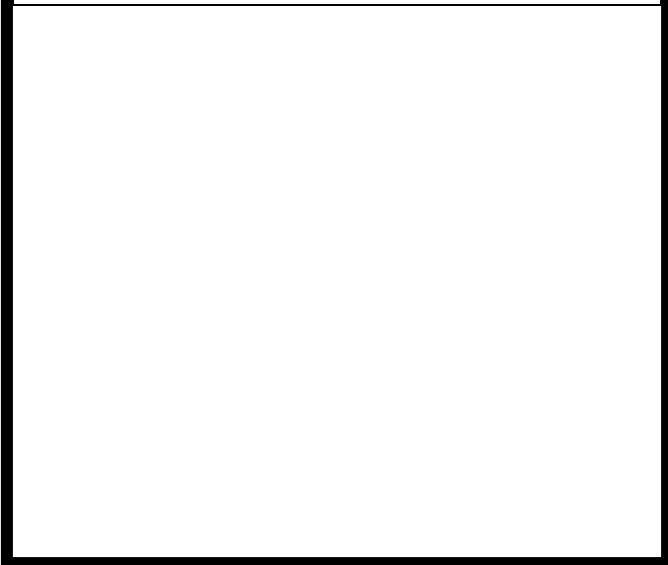
Draw what your bedroom looked like 5 years ago. Can you include as many details as Greg Lipton included in his?



What was your favourite type of food or drink as a young child? Using the logo of your favourite brand name, create a four piece drawing like Wray Banker's Milo Series.



Many people who experience an important event often remember it very differently from one another. Write down or draw what you remember most about hurricane Ivan. Compare your memory with your friends.



If you were chosen to be a part of this exhibition, what would you create?

