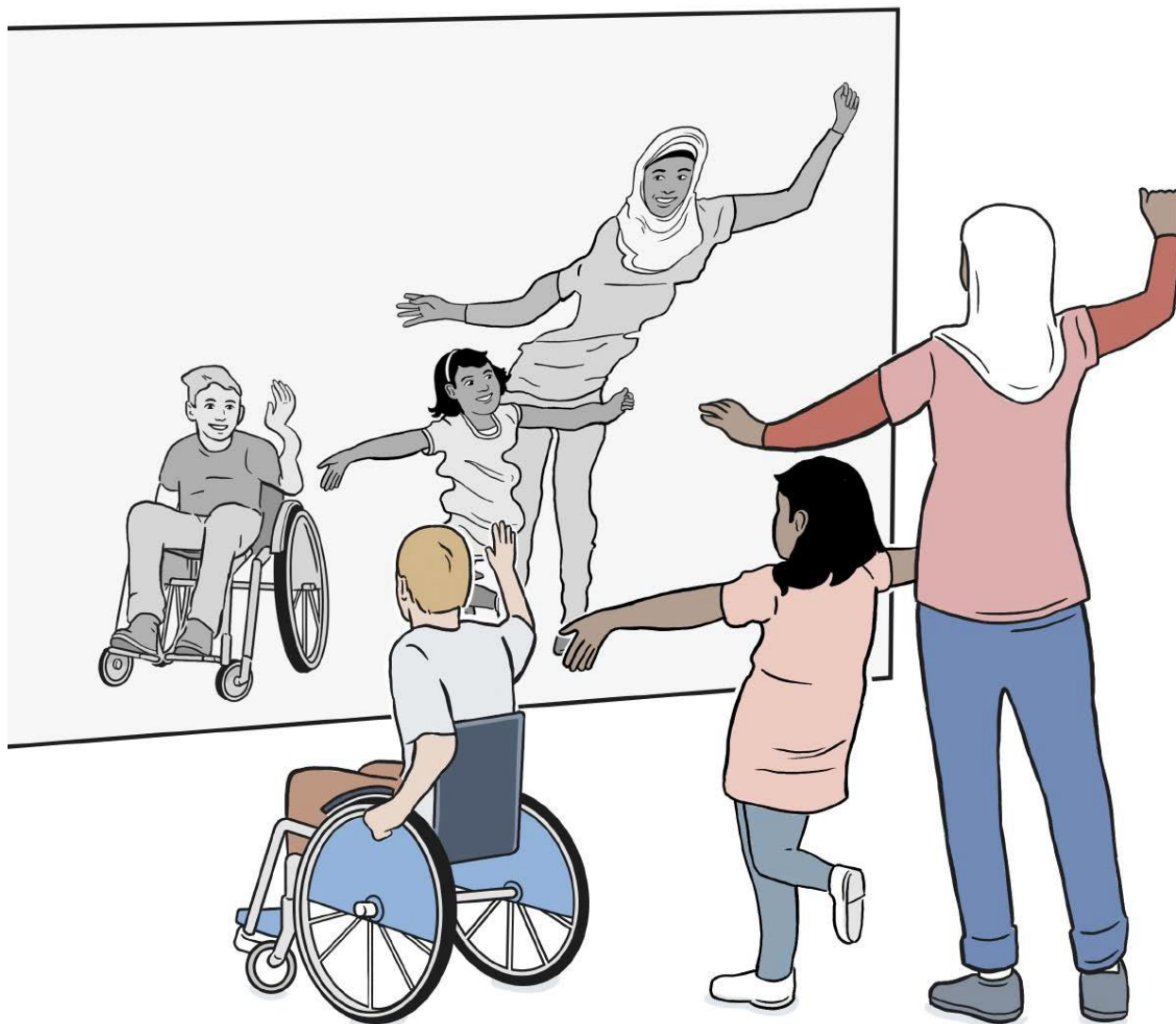


The camera never lies?

TIME TWISTER



(Type)	Ages	Topic	Time
Science background	3-14	Light	<10 mins
Skills used			
Observation - Curiosity			

Overview for adults

The time twister screen is a camera where the top of the picture looks like it normally would, but the bottom has a big delay on the picture it shows. What this means is this camera distorts your image if you move in front of it. Stand still and you won't notice, but move about, twirl or wave and it will make some truly weird pictures of you appear – The camera never lies? Oh yes it does.

What's the science?

The camera sends the pictures it takes through some software that adds a delay between your head and your feet. This special process can be used in films and TV to create weird and wonderful effects.

Science in your world

In a strange way, this slows down what used to happen with old TV sets, the bottom of the picture was ever so slightly behind the top. This was so TV stations only had to send small amounts of data at once, because back then we couldn't send huge amounts of information through the air very easily.

Things to think and talk about ...

- Have you ever spotted any other special effects or camera trickery in films?
- What happens when you stay still – why do you think that is?

Things to investigate ...

- Try twirling around on the spot or waving. What kind of effects can you create?
- What happens if you spin with other people?

Museum links

The original TV equipment made by Scottish inventor John Logie Baird is stored at the museum. You can watch famous and important TV shows from throughout history in Mediatheque on level 6, and see some memorabilia of great TV on the other side of level 3.

Did you know...?

Special effects and camera trickery are nothing new. Way back in 1895, an early film-maker pretended to chop off a character's head by stopping the camera and swapping the actor for a dummy. Ever since then, special effects have become more and more important.