Name: _____
Date: _____

How does animation work?

Animation creates an optical illusion. By presenting a sequence of still images in quick enough succession, the viewer interprets them as a continuous moving image.

Animation works because the human eye and brain can only process 10 to 12 separate images per second, retaining an image for up to a fifteenth of a second. If a later image replaces it in this period of time it will create the illusion of continuity.

In animation, moving characters are often shot “on twos”, which means one image is shown for every two frames of film, a total of 12 drawings per second. Then when multiple frames are put together it creates smooth and lifelike animation.

Cheaper cartoons often work on “threes”, or even “fours” (three or four frames per drawing). This translates to only 8 or 6 drawings per second and as a result the quality is not as good.

_____

Animation creates illusions that the eye and brain interpret as a moving picture. This genre of entertainment continues to develop as technology progresses. As a result, animated movies and TV series are becoming more and more elaborate and visually impressive.

Questions

1. Which two parts of your body process the illusions of animation? (4)

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_____

_____

_____

2. What do the subheadings do across this text? (4)

_____

_____

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_____

3. There is no subheading for the final summary paragraph. Can you come up with a possible title for this section (not '*summary*'!). (4)

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_____

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4. Why is the quality of some cartoons poorer than others?(4)

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_____

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5. What technical terms are used? Pick up to five words that you think would work well in a glossary. Use a dictionary to help you define them and make them into a glossary. (4)

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