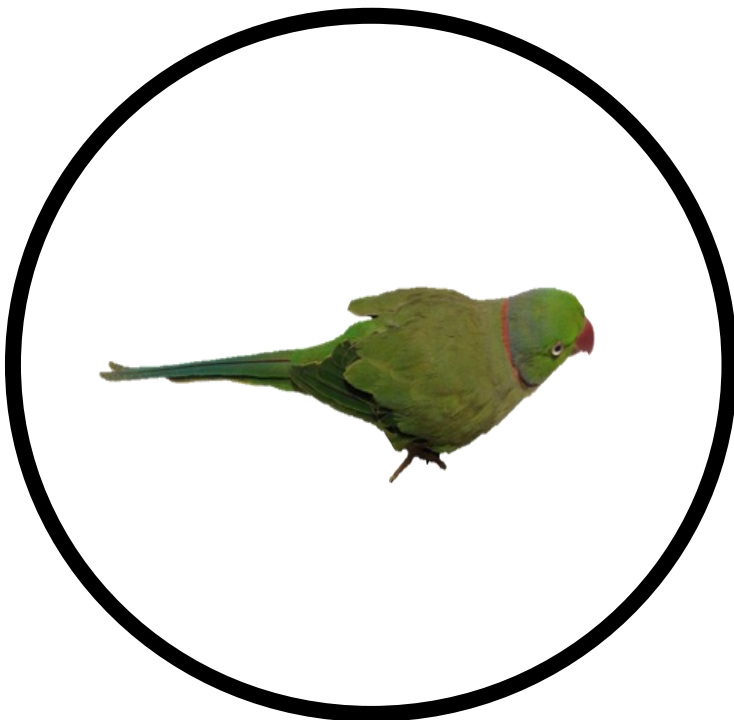
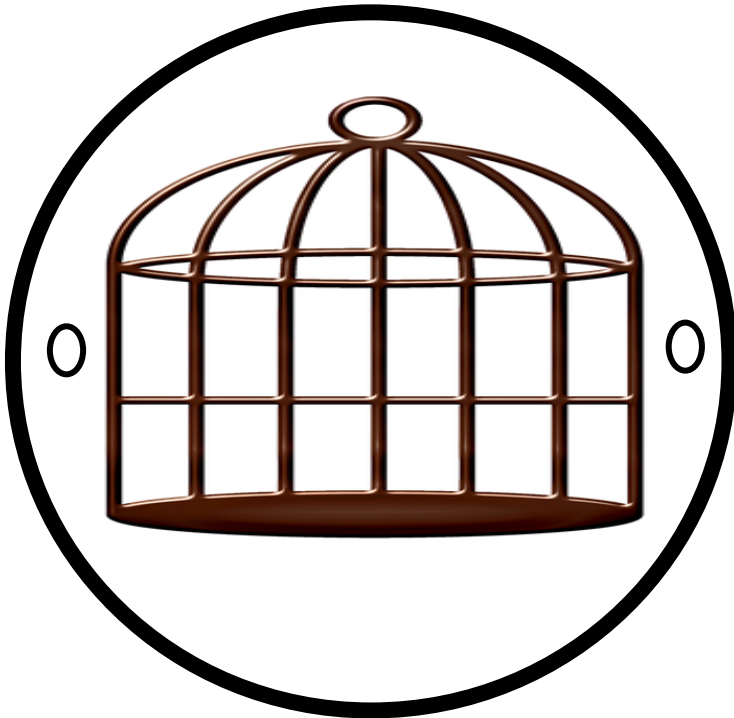


Mr Guermonprez's Pet Parakeet

Many of our natural history objects were collected by Mr Guermonprez, who lived in Bognor Regis, West Sussex. Two of Mr Guermonprez's pets were rose-ringed parakeets. When they died in the 1890s he had them stuffed and kept them in his house. This one is called Mary.



Make a Thaumatrope

A thaumatrope is an optical toy that was very popular in the 19th century.

This one shows 'Mary' in a birdcage when the strings are spun between your fingers.

1. Carefully cut out the circle with the bird cage and stick onto card. (Cereal packet card is ideal). Turn the card over.
2. Carefully cut out the circle with 'Mary' on it and stick onto the back of the card **upside down**
3. Using a sharp pencil, carefully make a hole on each side of the bird cage.
4. Take a piece of string about 32 cm long and tie a knot about 1 cm from the end. Repeat with a second piece of string.
5. Insert a loop of string in each of the two holes, pull the rest of the string through the loop and pull tight.
5. With the parakeet facing you, hold the ends of the string, pulling tightly. Using your index finger and thumb rub fingertips together to turn the string and spin the card.