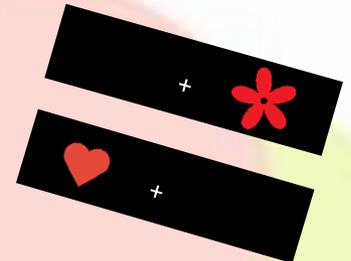
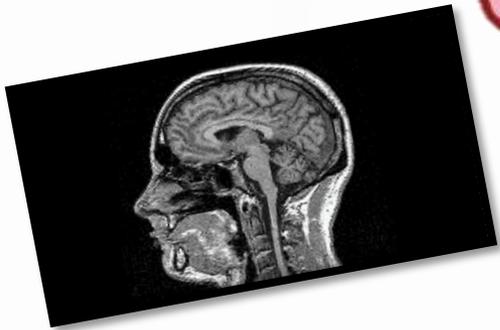
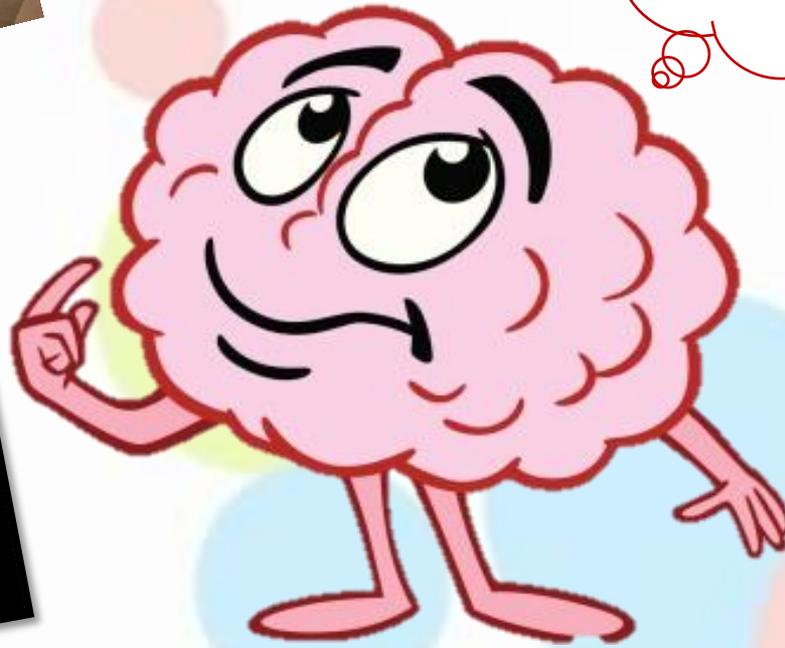
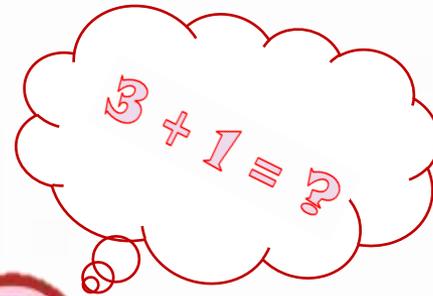


# My visit to the Numerical Brain Lab!





**Hi, my name is Savanna!**

**I'm here to tell you about my fun visits to Vanderbilt, where I played reading and math games and got a picture of my brain!**

**On my first visit, I met my scan buddy at the building where we would play games. She told me all about them and taught me about the MRI.**

**I learned the MRI is a really big camera that looks like a donut! Scientists use it to study the brain.**





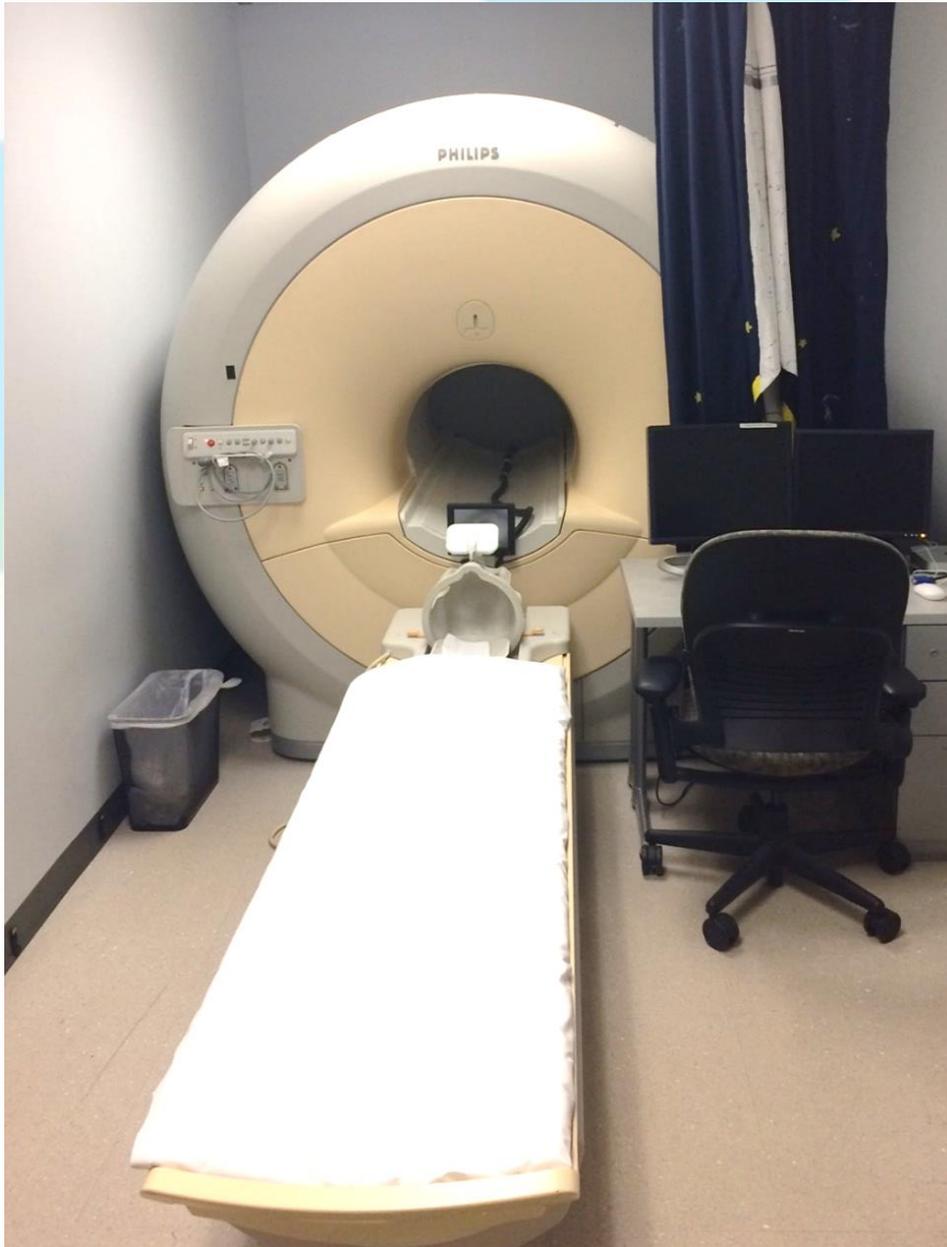
**Scientists use the big MRI camera to take pictures of your brain. They want to learn how your brain works while you are playing number games.**

**My scanner buddy told me there is a pretend MRI scanner that I practice in before going to the real MRI!**



**During the day, I played some fun reading and math games, solved riddles, and played on a computer.**

**I also went to the pretend MRI a few times to practice what I would do for my real scan!**



**This is the special room that has a mock, which means pretend, scanner.**

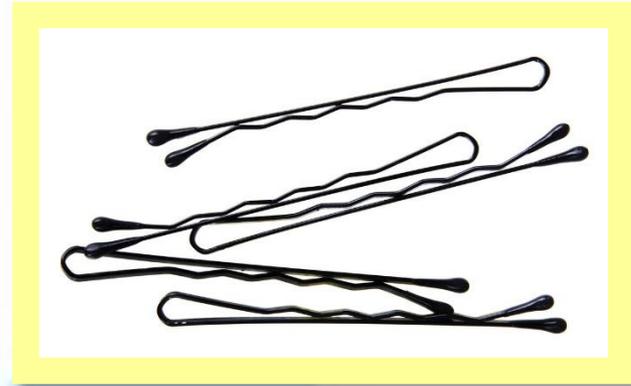
**My scanner buddy talked to me about how the MRI works and what I needed to do during the scan.**

**I'll tell you a little bit about everything I learned!**

**The mock scanner looks exactly like the real MRI scanner, but it's just for practice and doesn't actually take any pictures.**

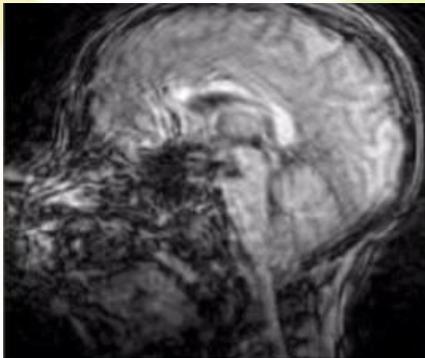
**I learned that the MRI uses a big magnet, instead of light, to take pictures!**

**Since it uses a magnet, I had to make sure I wasn't wearing any metal or didn't have any in my pockets, like coins, hair barrettes, jewelry, or any toys.**



**My scanner buddy also told me it's very important to be as still as possible in the scanner.**

**Just like a regular camera, if you move while getting your picture taken in the MRI, it will be blurry! We practiced being still like statues, so that my pictures will be clear.**



This is what your picture may look like if you move in the scanner!



This is what your picture will look like if you're as still as a statue in the scanner!

**My scanner buddy played the noises the MRI makes when it takes your picture. They all sound like things I had heard before!**

**Some sound like a phone ringing, a washing machine, or a horn honking.**

**After practicing at the mock scanner and playing games, I went home for the day.**





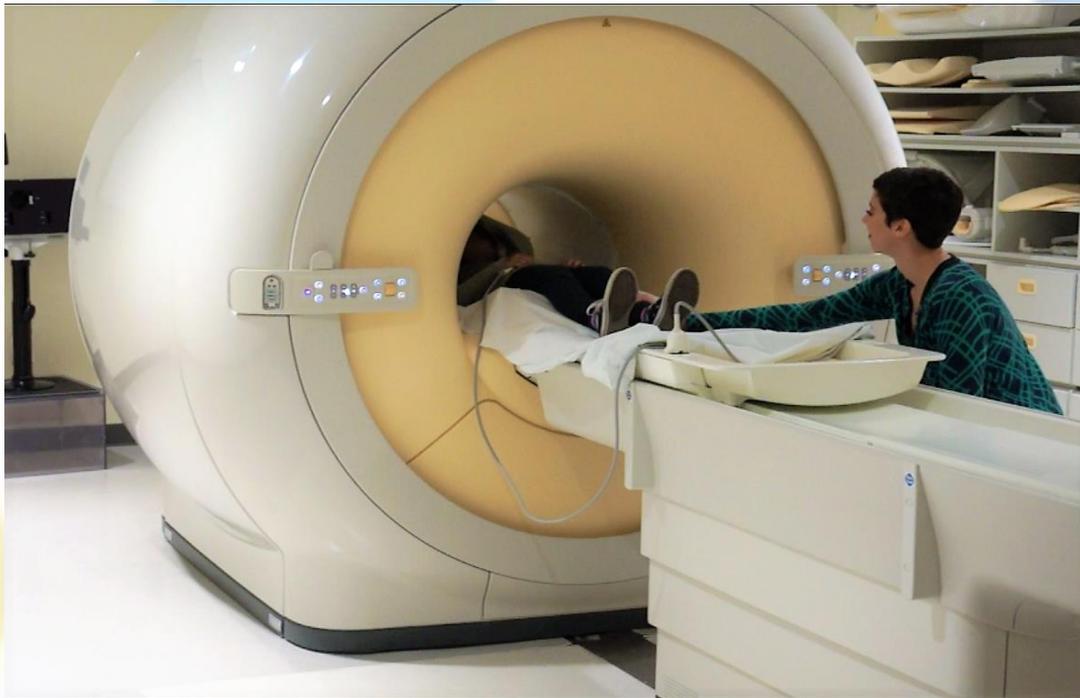
**I was so excited to come back a couple of days later for my second visit to do the real MRI scan!**

**I practiced being as still as a statue while at home and made sure to not wear any metal.**



**It was finally time to go into the scanner room!**

**My scan buddy put a pillow under my legs, headphones on my ears to hear the games, and cushions around my head to help me be a statue! Then, I got to wear a really cool space helmet that I could see the games on!**



**My scanner buddy stayed in the room, right next to me the whole time to help if I needed anything. The person taking pictures with the MRI talked to me over a speaker and told me how to play the games.**

**I played some number games and held very, very still for about 60 minutes, so that the MRI could take a lot of pictures of my brain.**



**Before I knew it, it was all over. The bed I was on moved out of the MRI and lowered to the ground, like a magic carpet! I had a lot of fun playing games in the MRI.**



**Afterwards, the person who talked to me during the scan showed me pictures of my brain! I even got to take a picture home!**



**I had a lot of fun at  
Vanderbilt! I can't wait  
to come back next year  
to play some more  
games and get another  
brain picture!**

