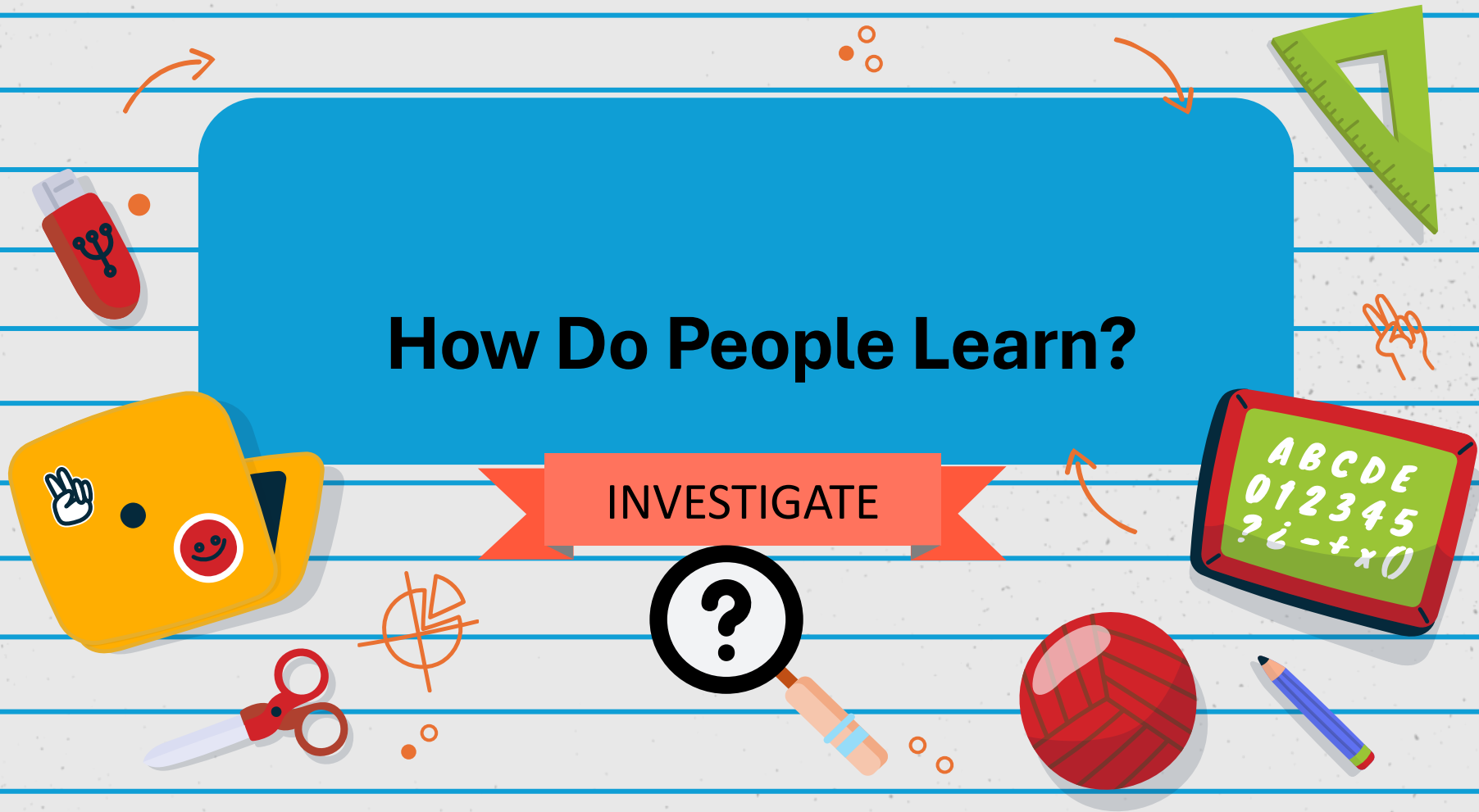


# How Do People Learn?

INVESTIGATE



## 4.3



# Cognitive Development across the lifespan





**As a Young Psychologist, I will be able to...**

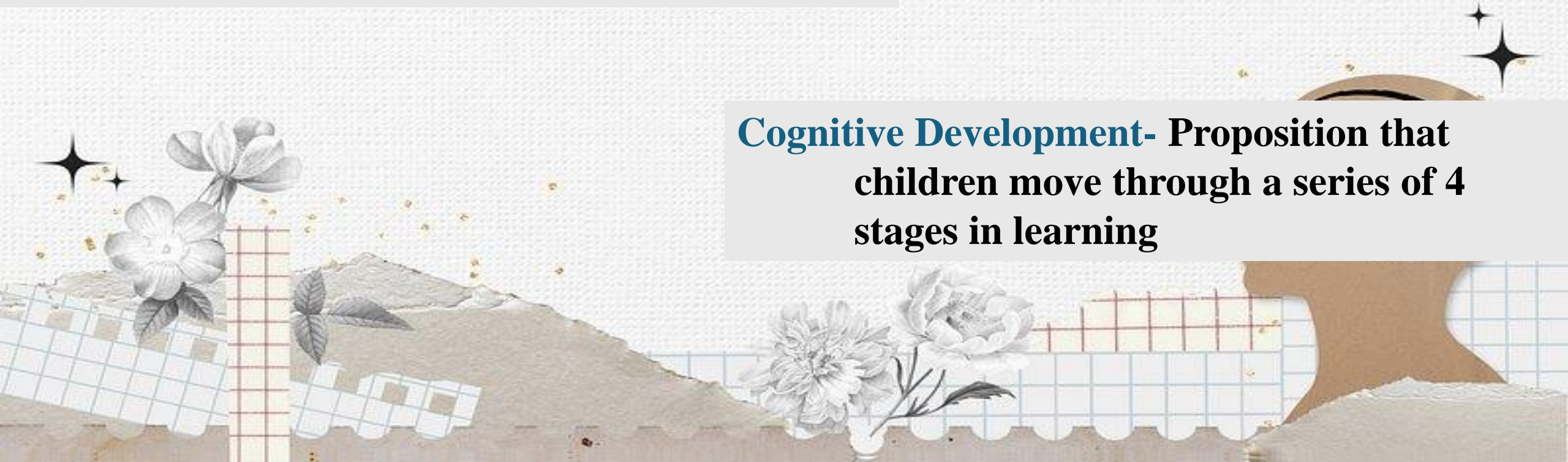
- **Analyze Piaget & his methods of Cognitive Development**
- **Discuss new methods of study on cognition**
- **Compare age stereotypes with reality**

# Piaget & Children's Development

**Jean Piaget began working in Paris in 1920 to identify at what age children could answer specific questions correctly**

**He found that children at a certain age would consistently give wrong answers & used the same pattern of reasoning to come to conclusions**

**Cognitive Development-** Proposition that children move through a series of 4 stages in learning





# Stages of Cognitive Development

1. **Sensorimotor stage**- Children learn by actions & sensations, by touching things or putting things in their mouths

This lasts from birth to about 2 years of age

**Object Permanence**- An awareness that things continue to exist even when out of sight



# Stages of Cognitive Development

**2. Preoperational Stage-** Children are able to use language & symbols to stand in for other objects

Children in this stage are egocentric & can't really see things from other points of view

They lack the concept of conservation, meaning they don't understand that something stays the same in quantity when its appearance changes

Lasts from 2-6 years of age

**Animism-** A belief that objects have thoughts & feelings





# Stages of Cognitive Development

3. **Concrete Operational-** They now understand conservation, but lack the ability to think about abstract problems

This stage lasts from about 7-11 years old!

4. **Formal Operational-** Final stage that children can now perform abstract reasoning & logic

This stage begins at around age 12!



# Updates to Research

**Subsequent Research-** Further research that relies on more advanced methods of studying

More research has shown us that young children have more cognitive abilities than Piaget believed

We have found that Preschoolers can gain insight into other perspectives, such as why someone might be angry

The entire framework by Piaget is now understood to be dependent on framework, not just age



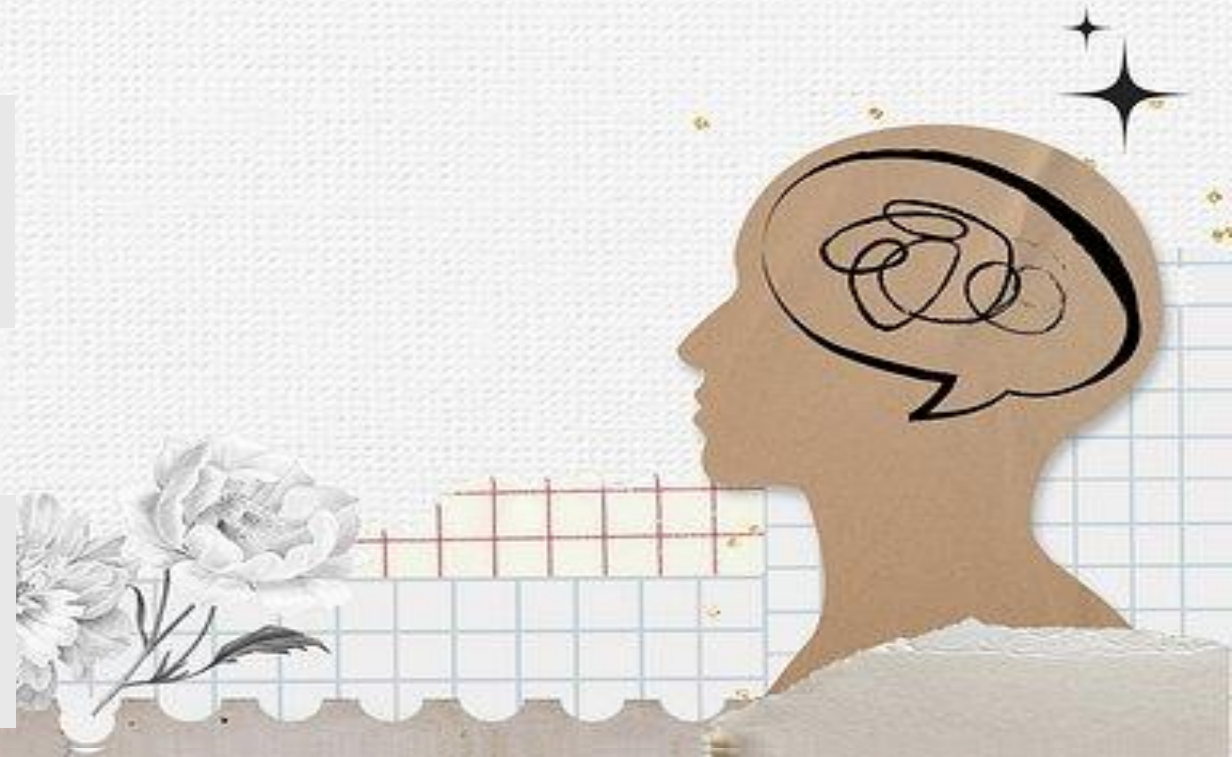
# Updates to Research

**Teenagers can continue to understand egocentrism, such as the uniqueness of their own thoughts & feelings**

**Personal Fable-** A belief that one is special & different from all other people

**Adolescent egocentrism also believes that “an imaginary audience” judges them at all times**

**As they grow older, relativistic thinking becomes more common & different people can look at the same thing in different ways**



# Shifts in Age

**We have different processing skills based on age. Short-term memory peaks at 25 years old & the speed we process declines**

**The ability to evaluate others' emotional states peaks in our 50s**



**However, older people can still use skills, knowledge, & experience in intelligence**

**Dementia-** a Neurocognitive psychological disorder that causes memory loss



# Changing Views on Aging

**Keep on learning! People who regularly engage in mentally stimulating activities are far less likely to develop serious cognitive problems**

**Counteract negative stereotypes about aging, find people who achieved great things at old ages**

