The camera obscura is the term for the optical phenomenon of placing a pinhole in a wall and on the opposite wall an image will be created. The image will be upside down but it will not be still because it is basically a projection of what is happening outside. There must not be any other light in the room besides the pinhole for this effect to occur. One can capture the image by placing a light sensitive material on the wall that is projected in; this will however create a negative that will have to be turned into a positive.

The camera obscura is the skeletal frame of how a camera works. The camera obscura had been around for a long time but people could not figure out how to capture the projection and fix it so that the image would not vanish. 'then go in and start talking about the history of photography a little'.