

How to make a Thaumatrope

Thaumatrope means 'wonder turner' in Ancient Greek. They were a popular toy in Victorian times and one of the early forms of animation.

You will need 1 cardboard circle, 2 paper circles, pencil crayons or felt tips, scissors, glue and string.

1. Cut out 2 paper circles.
2. Think of a picture that can be broken down into two parts e.g. a fish in a bowl or a lion in a cage.
3. Draw your picture e.g. a fish bowl on one circle and colour it in.
4. Put your blank circle on top and with pencil lightly trace the picture underneath.
5. Use this as a guide to draw and colour the other part of your picture e.g. the fish on this circle. Stick 1 circle on each side of a cardboard circle. Make sure they are in the right place and level with the holes in the cardboard circle.
6. Use a pencil to push through holes in your paper circle to match the holes in the cardboard circle.
7. Take a piece of string. Loop it so the ends are together. Put the loop end through one hole in the Thaumatrope and slip the loose ends together through the loop. Pull them tight.
8. Repeat for the other hole.
9. Spin the Thaumatrope with your fingers.
10. **Watch the magic happen!**

