

# THAUMATROPES

These early animation toys were first produced in France in the early 1800's.

When flipped back and forth quickly the brain sees both pictures and combines them to look like 1. This is due to a principle known as the Persistence of Vision. Modern movies work on the same concept, showing a succession of still photos close together tricks the mind into seeing a moving picture.

To make your own thaumatrope:

What you need:

- Scissors
- Colored pencils, crayons or markers
- 2 pieces of yarn or string
- Printed copy of the templates attached

To make the thaumatrope:

- 1) Print, cut out and color the templates we have provided.
- 2) Place them together back to back, with one upside down. Line the small circles up as close as possible.
- 3) Punch a hole through the disks on each side, approximately where the small circle is printed
- 4) Attach a string or piece of yarn through each side.
- 5) Grasp the thaumatrope by the yarn with the thumb and forefinger of both hands, and twist quickly, causing the disk to flip quickly creating the effect of a moving picture.

For more fun, try drawing your own images.

