

WHIRLYGIGS

Whirlygigs (or whirligigs) are a simple old fashioned toy to make. The earliest examples of a whirlygig are from the 1600's in Europe and would have been a popular toy with the early settlers in America. There is evidence Native American children had them as well. Below are 2 ways to make your own pioneer toy!

Version 1:

What you need:

- An old button with 2 or 4 holes in the middle
- A piece of string or yarn approximately 3 feet long

How to:

1. Thread the yarn through 2 of the holes on the button. If the button has 4 holes make sure you use the diagonal holes.
2. Tie the ends of the yarn together.
3. Pull yarn so that the button is in the middle of the loop of yarn. See the "To Play" instructions at the bottom of the page.

Version 2:

What you need:

- Scissors
- Pencil
- Crayons
- Copy of the Penny Spinner and Whirlygigs Template
- Thin cardboard like a cereal box
- Glue stick
- Something sharp to poke holes
- Piece of string or yarn approximately 3 feet long

How to:

1. Color two of the designs from the Penny Spinner and Whirlygigs template and cut them out.
2. Trace around one on your card board and cut it out. Using a glue stick glue one of the design wheels on each side.
3. Have an adult use scissors, a knife, or a sharp skewer to put 2 small holes through the cardboard circle. Place one hole at each end of the bold solid line in the middle.
4. Thread the yarn through the holes and tie it to make a loop.
5. Slide the whirligig to the middle of the yarn loop, and follow the "To Play" instructions below.

To Play:

1. Grab the yarn loop on both ends with the whirligig in the middle.
2. Twist it toward you to wind up the yarn.
3. Move your hands in an out to make the whirly gig spin back and forth.