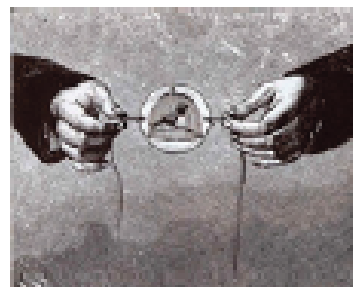


History Inspired Crafts: Thaumatrope

Kentucky kids used to play with all types of simple and easy-to-craft toys. Popular games included cup & ball, Jacob's Ladder and thaumatrope. Thaumatrope, also known as "wonder turners," long captivated Kentucky kids from the past. This toy, invented in 1826 in England, uses a disk with two pictures on either side that merge into one when they are attached to string and spun very quickly. The resulting optical illusion forms the basis for animation and cinematography today. Make your own thaumatrope illusion using these instructions!



Suggested Activity: Create Your Own Thaumatrope

You Will Need:

Template, Cardboard, Paper, Markers, Scissors, Glue stick, String, Hole Punch, Straw, Stapler

- Step 1: Use the template below or fold a small piece of paper in half. Use markers to draw half of your design on one side and the other half of the design on the backside. Hint: If you are having difficulty drawing two separate images to form a whole, use a heavy marker so your design is still visible when the paper is flipped over.
- Step 2: Cut your paper along the crease and glue the images onto a small circular piece of cardboard. One of the images needs to be glued upside down for the illusion to work.
- Step 3: Punch holes on both ends of your cardboard and tie an equal amount of string, about 4 to 6 inches, onto both holes. Alternatively, staple a straw to the base of the thaumatrope.
- Step 4: Holding the strings, spin the image quickly to reveal your illusion! If using a straw, twirl the image quickly between your hands to reveal your illusion!

