

Make a Thaumatrope

A thaumatrope is a Victorian toy, where two images combine to make one in an optical illusion. Follow these instructions to make your own.

You will need:

Paper, pencil, scissors, cellotape, glue, something round to draw around (e.g. the top of a cup), colouring pencils or felt tip pens and a straw (or similar e.g. pencil).

What to do:

1. Draw 2 circles on your paper. Use something round as a template, for example the top of a cup or roll of cellotape.
2. Cut out your circles.
3. Think of two different pictures that go together e.g. bird and cage or fish and bowl. Top tip: the easiest pictures are one small object inside a bigger one.
4. Draw your first picture in the middle of one circle and colour it in. Top tip: draw your small object first e.g. a fish.
5. On the other circle draw and colour in your second picture. Make sure this picture is bigger, try to fill most of the circle.
6. Turn over one of your circles and stick a straw or pencil to the middle of the circle. Make sure your picture is the right way up when you hold the straw.
7. Cover the back of your second circle in glue and stick it over the straw so that your two pictures are back to back.
8. Once the glue is dry, hold the straw between your palms and rub your hands so the pictures spin. It will make the two pictures come together and look like one image.

