

Make a Thaumatrope (Wonder Spinner)

What is it? A thaumatrope is an optical illusion toy that was popular in the Victorian era. It's made from a circle of cardboard with a different picture on each side. When you spin the circle quickly, the pictures combine to make one. For example, if you draw a bird on one face of the circle and a cage on the other, you'll see a bird in a cage when it spins.

How does it work? The human eye can only see 10 - 12 images per second and the brain can still be processing an image after it disappears. If a new image replaces the first image while the brain is still processing, it will see a combination of the two images. This is called persistence of vision.

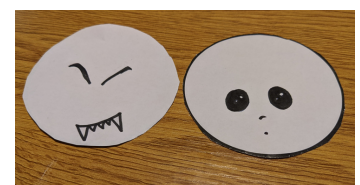
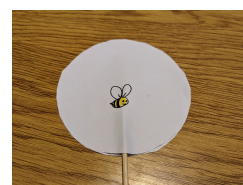
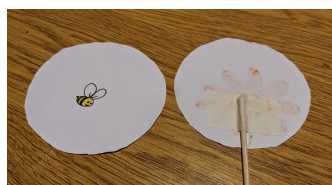
What you need:

- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Straw or skewer
- Tape
- Glue
- Marker



What to do:

- Cut out two circles of cardboard the same size. You can use the template on the next page.
- Think of two pictures that go together, like a fish and fishbowl, butterfly and flower or Poke-ball and Pokemon.
- Draw a picture on each side of the circle, being careful to make sure they line up. Tip: Place the circles on top of each other and press down really hard when drawing one of the pictures. This will leave an imprint so you know where to draw the other picture.
- Tape the straw/skewer in the centre, on the back of one of the circles
- Glue the other circle on top
- Spin the straw between your hands and watch the pictures combine.



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