

THAUMATROPE

BACKGROUND

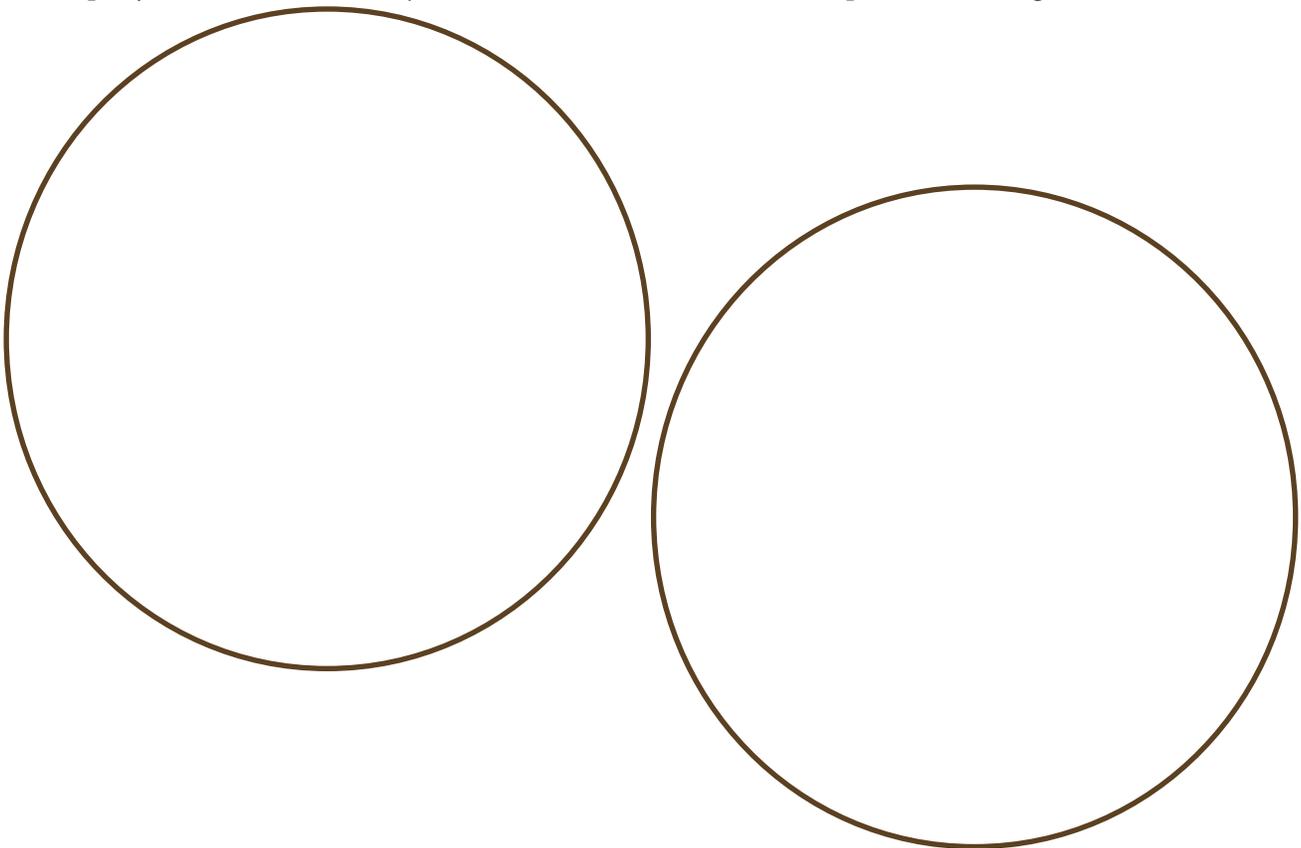
The thaumatrope (Greek for the “Wonder Turner”) was invented in 1826. It operates on the principle of optics, meaning that an impression made on the retina of the eye lasts for a short time after the object which produced said impression has been removed. One side of a round disc has part of the picture, while the other side has the rest of the picture. For example, a bird might be drawn on one side, and a cage on the other side. When the disc was held at the sides by two strings and spun, both images merged and the bird appeared to be in the cage. This was a popular form of entertainment in the Victorian Period.

ITEMS NEEDED

Cardstock
Tape
Scissors
Colored pencils, crayons, or markers
Pencil, straw, or round dowel

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut out the two circles at the bottom of the page.
2. Draw separate pictures on each circle. It is best to keep the images simple and clean. (Hint: the picture on the back should be flipped horizontally).
3. Tape pieces back to back onto pencil, straw, or rounded dowel.
4. Rapidly twirl the rounded object back and forth in hands for the pictures to merge.



EXAMPLES

