



THAUMATROPE

What is a **thaumatrope**?

A thaumatrope is a parlor toy that was developed during the Victorian time period. A disk with a picture on each side is attached to two pieces of string. When the strings are twirled quickly between the fingers, the two pictures appear to blend into one due to the persistence of vision.

What is **the persistence of vision**?

Persistence of vision is an optical illusion. Our eyes and brain can take time to process what we see. When we look at an image, it can stay in our minds for up to 1/15 of a second. If we are shown a new image in the time it takes to process, it will create the illusion of continuity.



Supplies Needed:

- Design template
- Card stock/heavy paper
- Markers or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Two pieces of string

Share your work with us!

We want to see your thaumatropes!
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Thaumatrope Instructions

To Make your Thaumatrope

1. Print the templates on heavy paper or card stock
2. Draw the first half of your image on one side of the disk
3. Flip your disk over and draw the second half of your image. **To make the images line up, the second image must be upside down from the first image. To make sure the disk is the correct way, make sure the writing on the template is the right way up.**
4. Cut out the disk
5. Punch a hole on either side of your image
6. Tie a string to each hole

To Use your Thaumatrope, spin the thaumatrope by twisting the string in each hand.

What makes a good thaumatrope image?

A thaumatrope is made of three images - one on each side of the disk and the combined images. Choose images that make sense both together and apart.

Here are some ideas:

Side One		Side Two
Man	+	Hat
Ducks	+	Pond
Tree Branches	+	Tree Leaves
Soccer Player	+	Soccer Ball
Cloud	+	Rain and Lightening
Horse	+	Rider



For video instructions, visit our website.

www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org

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