

WHIPPLE MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

MAKE
YOUR
OWN

THAUMATROPE

People have always been fascinated by pictures which move and change. Think how much time we spend watching films and television today! At the Whipple Museum, in addition to lots of scientific instruments, equipment, models, pictures, photographs and other objects, there are many examples of Victorian optical illusions, including thaumatropes like these.

SUMMER ~~AT~~ *with* THE MUSEUMS



YOU WILL NEED:

- Paper or card
- String
- Something to draw and colour with
- Something to draw round to make a circle
- Glue or sellotape

1. Draw a circle on a piece of paper or card and cut it out.

2. Think about what you would like to draw on your thaumatrope. It needs to have 2 separate things that will go together (like a fish and a bowl). You could copy one of the Victorian examples here or make up your own. Remember to keep it simple.

3. Draw one part of your picture on one side of your circle.

4. Now flip the circle over (from bottom to top) and draw the second part on this side.

5. Make holes on both sides of your circle. Thread a piece of string through each hole and tie a knot in the string.

HAVE
FUN

To use your thaumatrope, hold the strings in each hand and twist them really quickly. You should find that the two separate images look like they have merged into one!