How to Make a Thaumatrope

Materials:

- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Skewer stick
- Two cutout circles
- Cardboard or equivalent

Instructions:

1. Cut out the two circles from the last page of these instructions. Trace the circles onto cardboard then cut and glue each paper circle to a cardboard circle.
2. Developed in the early 19th century, Thaumatropes are an optical toy and one of the earliest forms of animation. Using two illustrated sides of a disc, Thaumatropes create the illusion of motion that seemingly have drawings blend into one. For this activity, think of a simple illustration; for example, a flower and a bee, a bird and a cage, or a tree and a hanging apple.

3. Once you have decided on your drawing, take one of the circles and draw one element. Then take the second circle and draw the other part. Be sure to place things in the spot you want them to be in.
4. Taking one of the two circles, flip it over and dab some glue to the back.

5. Place the skewer stick vertically down the center of the circle. Place the second circle, making sure it is right side up, on top and gently hold everything together as it dries.
6. Once everything has dried, place the Thaumatrope handle/stick in the palm of your hands. Roll the stick between your palms to spin the Thaumatrope and watch your drawings come to life.
Tips and Tricks

- Remember to keep the illustrations simple.
- Placement is key.
- Have fun and experiment with creative ideas!

**DO**

[Diagram showing examples of simple illustrations]

**DON’T**

[Diagram showing examples of complex illustrations]

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Thaumatrope Cutouts

Cut on the edge of the black outline.

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