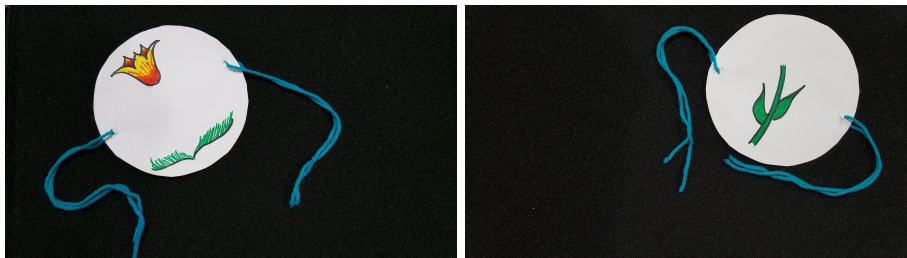


Persistence of Vision: Creating a Thaumatrope



Subject: Visual Art

Grade Level: M1

Time to Complete: 30-45 minutes

Discover the basics of animation or moving pictures by creating your very own thaumatrope.

Persistence of Vision is the phenomenon that produces the illusion of movement when viewing moving pictures, like animation.

IN THIS PROJECT, YOU WILL:

1. Create two pictures that will come together as one.
2. Move (or spin) your pictures to make them come to life.

WHY MAKE A THAUMATROPE:

1. To understand more about animation.
2. To practice communicating through visual arts.

VOCABULARY:

Persistence of vision, thaumatrope (to-ma-trope), animation

MATERIALS:

- Drawing Tools (pencils, markers, pens, crayons, etc.)
- Plain White Paper
- Glue (stick or liquid)

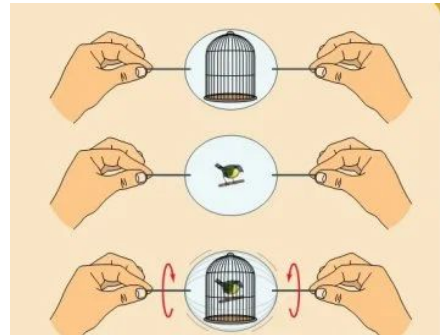
- Yarn or string
- Scissors
- Cup, Small Plate, Coaster (to trace)
- If possible, a computer, tablet or smartphone to view an instructional video

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [Creating A Thaumatrope Video](#)

MAKE YOUR THAUMATROPE:

A **thaumatrope** is a disc with a picture on each side that 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.



1. Cut two (2) circles out of your paper.
To make it simpler: Fold your paper in half and trace around something circular (like the top of a cup). Then cut both circles at the same time. They don't have to be perfect, but they should be the same size.
2. Cut two(2) 12-inch pieces of yarn or string.
3. Brainstorm the picture that you want to make.
 This should be a 2-part image. For example, if you want a bird in a cage, you might draw the bird on one side and the cage on the other.
4. Draw your first image on one of the circles. Trace over the lines to make them darker (use a marker/pen if possible)
5. Draw your second image on the second circle. To make sure they line up, place the paper on top of your first picture, then draw your second image.
6. Color in your pictures.
7. Glue your images back to back. **Make sure that one of the images is upside down.**
8. When the glue is dry, carefully poke holes on each side of your disc. Then

thread one string through one hole and tie it off. Thread the second string through the second hole and tie it off.

9. Twist the strings of your thaumatrope between your fingers to spin the pictures and make one picture! Did it work?

SHARE OUT:

1. Share your project with your friends and family! Ask them:
 - How might this project explain something about animation?
 - What do you like best about my artwork?

SELF REFLECTION:

1. What artistic choices did I make?
2. What problems did I solve?
3. Overall, I think my artwork is successful because:
4. If I were to do this activity again, I would do these things differently:
5. How did I become a better artist?