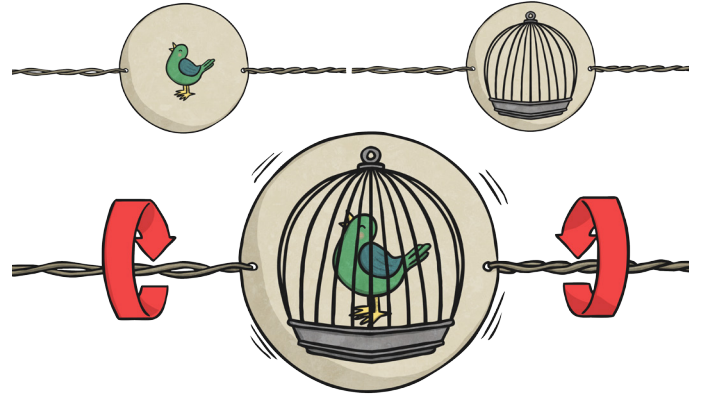


Making a Thaumatrope



A thaumatrope is a toy that was popular in Victorian times. People were fascinated with simple ways of making pictures look like they were moving – an early form of animation.

A simple thaumatrope was made with two disks, featuring a picture on each. With a picture on each side, string is then tied to the sides of the disks which are placed back to back. When the string is used to spin the pictures rapidly, the two images appear to merge into one.



The same effect can be created using a wooden stick rubbed between your palms with the disks stuck back to back at the top.

A famous old thaumatrope featured a bird in one image and an empty cage in the other. What do you think happens when the two pictures are turned rapidly?

Try making your own by drawing the pictures onto these disks. Cut them out and stick them back to back. Use either string or a piece of wood to make them spin rapidly.

