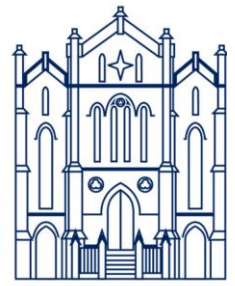




Bailiffgate

MUSEUM GALLERY



How to Make a Thaumatrope

The thaumatrope is a very simple optical toy invented in 1826 by Dr John Ayton Paris. It was one of the very first optical toys and was very popular in Victorian times. The word 'thaumatrope' means 'wonder turner' in Greek.

You will need:

Two circles of card with a design on each

Two pieces of string about 30cm each

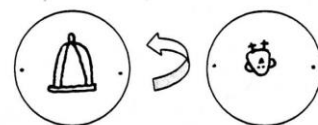
Scissors

A sharp pencil and a rubber

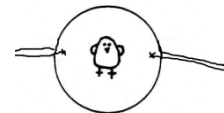
Pencil crayons

What to do:

1. Cut out the circles of card.
2. Colour in the designs. Make sure you don't colour too darkly or it won't work. Stick the card circles back to back. **Make sure that one of the pictures is upside down.**



3. Rest the thaumatrope on a rubber and make holes at the sides for the string, where the crosses are, using a sharp pencil. Be careful not to poke yourself with the pencil. Ask a grown-up to help if you need to.



4. Push a piece of string through each hole and tie the end.
5. Hold the strings and spin the card until the string is wound up. Pull the string so that the card spins and the pictures look as though they are merging. Don't pull too hard as it will tear the card.

