Thaumatrope



What is a thaumatrope?

A thaumatrope* is an optical toy that demonstrates persistence of vision. Persistence of vision is a phenomenon that happens with our eyes. When we see an image and see another image right away, the two pictures appear to make up a single image.

Create a thaumatrope of a scene that moves. **Supplies needed:**

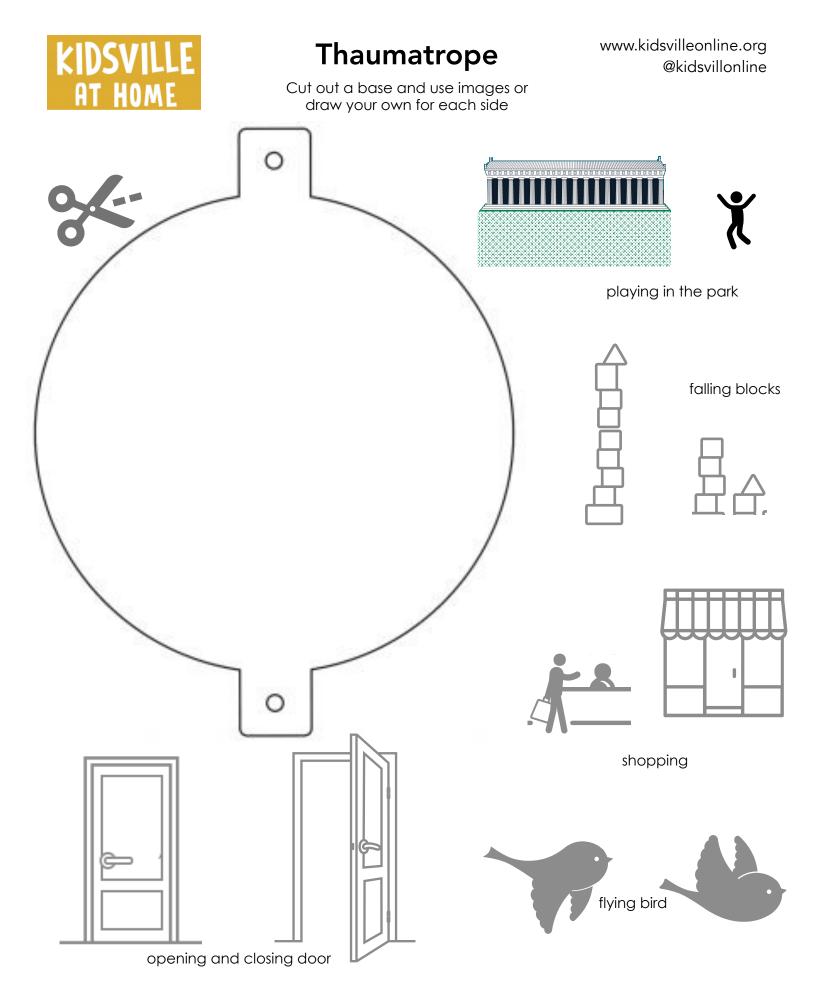
- 1 circle base with holes on sides
- 2 images (use ones provided or create your own)
- 2 rubber bands

This thaumatrope example is horizontal (rubber bands on the sides), so one image should be upside down from the image on the other side of the circle base. (If the thaumatrope is vertical, the images don't have to be different directions)

- 1. Glue or draw an upside down image on one side of the circle. (Like an upside version of the Centennial Park great lawn)
- 2. Glue or draw another image you want part of the scene on the other side of the circle, following the directions above. (Image should be right side up and the previous image will look upside down on the other side)
- 3. Poke rubber bands through the holes in the thaumatrope, and loop the band through itself.
- 4. Hold the thaumatrope by the rubber bands stretched to the side and spin the circle around to wind the bands up then let go and the circle will spin and make the images appear together or move as it spins around.

*Thaumatrope: a word created from the Greek word for "wonder", thauma and tropos, for "turn", or "spinning wonder".





Put one image on each side and when they spin, they will create the mini movie or new image. If using the base in a horizontal position, don't forget to put one image upside down as described in instructions.