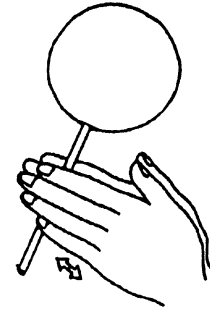


Thaumatrope

SPECIAL EFFECTS 2

1. Color the pictures on the circles.
2. Cut out the circles.
3. Staple one circle to the end of a straw, making sure that it is on straight.
4. Staple the other circle back-to-back with the first, making sure that it is on straight also.
5. Hold the straw between your hands as shown. Twirl the straw by moving your hands back and forth against each other.
6. Hold the thaumatrope at arms's length and watch the two pictures as the circles spin.



A "thaumatrope" (THAW-ma-trope) is a device that creates the illusion of two pictures, becoming one. It comes from a Greek word, *thauma*, meaning "a miracle." People must have thought it was a miracle to see two separate pictures as one. It is actually a miracle of how the brain works.

Our brains retain an image of what we see for a short time after we see it. If we see another picture before we have forgotten the first, our brains just put the two together. This is called "persistence of vision."

Persistence of vision is the basis of movies. The movie film is really a series of still pictures that are shown one after the other at the right speed for our brains to merge them together.

This dinosaur is a *Maiasaura* (MY-uh-SORE-uh). The word means "good mother lizard." Scientists think that *Maiasaur*s were good mothers because fossils found in Montana include nests of eggs and young as well as adult dinosaurs.

