



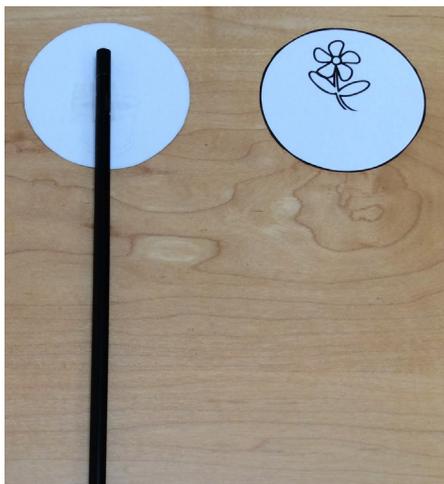
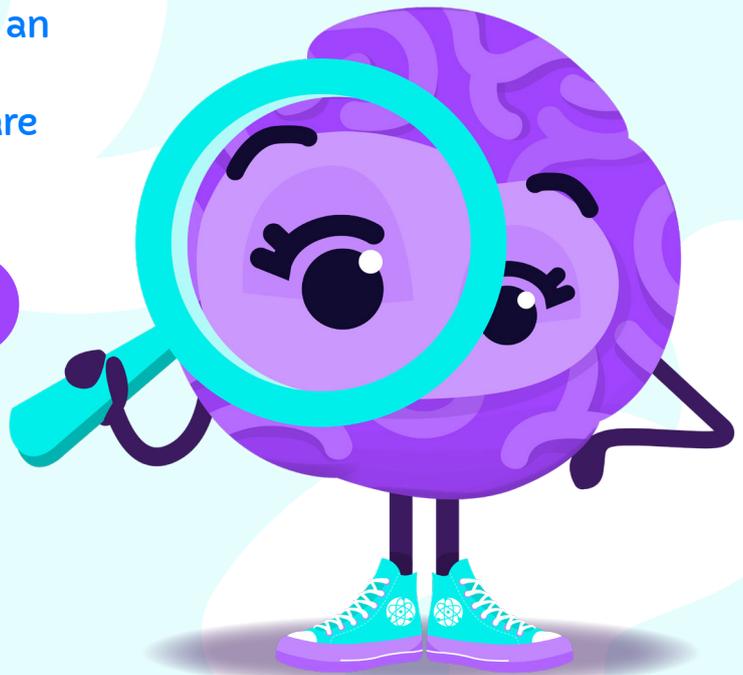
## Sens-ational Science Club

### MAKE YOUR OWN THAUMATROPE

Thaumatrope were popular toys in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, which use an optical illusion to produce an interesting effect. Today, you are going to make your own!

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- > A page of thaumatrope images
- > Coloured pens or pencils
- > Scissors
- > Glue Stick
- > Straws



#### HOW TO

- 1** Choose a pair of pictures and cut them out carefully with the scissors. Ask an adult if you need help.
- 2** Colour in the pictures however you like.
- 3** Making sure your picture is the right way up, put some glue on the back of one of the circles. Lay a straw on top, as shown.



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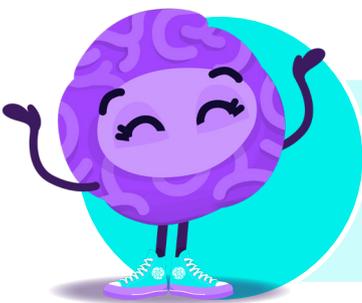
### MAKE YOUR OWN THAUMATROPE



- 4 Line up your second picture carefully with the first one and stick it to the other side of the straw. It should look a bit like a lollipop.
- 5 When you pick up the straw, you should be able to see one of the pictures, or spin it around to the other side to see the other.
- 6 Once the glue is dry, hold the bottom of the straw between your palms and rub them backwards and forwards to make the straw spin. What happens to the pictures?
- 7 Now, why not try drawing your own design on the blank circles? What kinds of colours and images work best?

### THE SCIENCE

You should see that the two pictures seem to blend into one. This is because our sense of vision isn't instant- a 'memory' of each picture you see stays in the retina of your eye for a fraction of a second before it is sent to the brain. When we spin the disk, it moves so quickly that your brain can't keep up! Rather than seeing two separate images, you see them both at the same time. This is similar to the way cartoons, made up of lots of still images presented very quickly, trick your brain into thinking they are moving.



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