

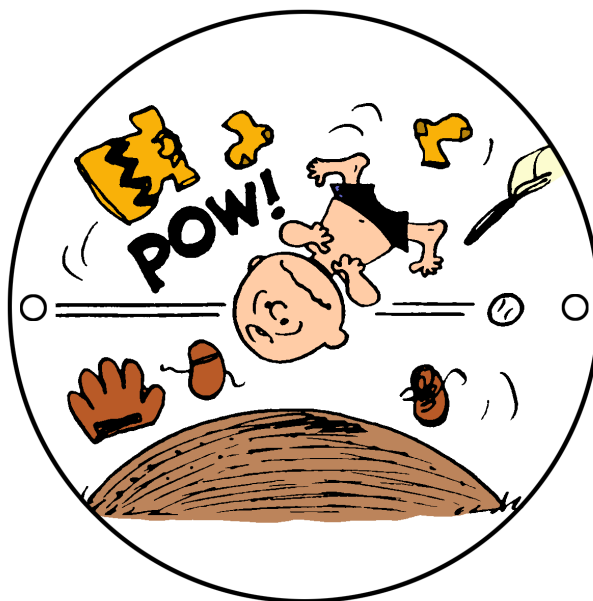
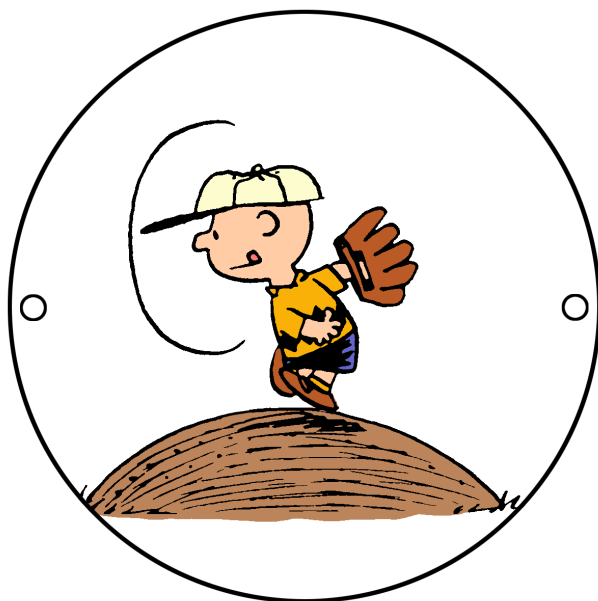
Make a *Peanuts* Thaumatrope!

A thaumatrope (pronounced thom-a-trope) is an early form of animation that was invented in 1826 as an optical toy. A card with a picture on each side is attached to two rubber bands or strings. When you twirl the rubber bands or strings quickly between your fingers, the two pictures appear to blend into one picture due to persistence of vision, which is how all animation works.

Persistence of vision is the phenomena that our eyes and brain hold onto the impression of what we see for about one-thirtieth of a second after we see it. That means when we see still images moving in sequence faster than one-thirtieth of a second, our eyes retain the impression of each image (or frame of animation) long enough to give the illusion of motion.

Try A Thaumatrope!

1. Print and cut out the two circles below. Printing on cardstock will work better although you can also cut out the images and glue them to an index card or thin cardboard. Punch holes on the edges where indicated.
2. Tape or glue the circles together back-to-back with the images facing out and with one side upside down. Make sure the holes on the edges line up with each other.
3. Loop a rubber band or tie a string through the holes on each side.
4. Twirl the rubber bands or string between your fingers as fast as possible and watch your thaumatrope come to life!



Illustrate Your Own Thaumatrope!

Cut out the additional circles on the next page and add your own drawings in the blank circles. The images you choose to draw should work together like a bird in one circle and a cage in another, or a fish in one circle and a fishbowl in the other. Make sure one of the images is upside down to the other. Follow the steps above to complete your thaumatrope.

