

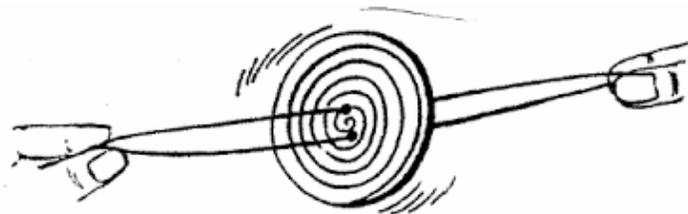


HISTORIC GIDEON AND AGNES POND HOUSE

HOW TO MAKE FRONTIER TOYS

WHIRLIGIG

The whirligig is a simple toy consisting of a flat disc with two central holes. When a string is threaded through the holes, twisted and then pulled taut, the disc spins and hums.

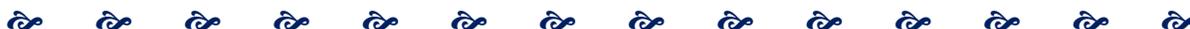


Supplies you'll need:

- 1 large wooden or plastic button (available in craft stores)
- One 3-foot (36 inches) piece of string
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils

Follow these steps:

1. Color both sides of a wooden disk with designs of your choice. Experiment with patterns, spirals and colors!
2. Thread a 3-foot piece of string through the holes (holes opposite each other if using a 4-holed button) and tie the ends together.
3. Holding the string with fingers of both hands, twirl the button in a circular motion until the string is wound taut. Then pull the string to make the button spin! Quickly alternate pulling and relaxing the string: the spinning button will make a "whirring" sound as its name implies.



THAUMATROPE

The thaumatrope is an optical illusion. When you spin the disk, the two pictures spin so fast your eye is tricked into thinking they are one.

Supplies you'll need:

- Two (2) disks of stiff cardboard, about 3" in diameter
- Hole punch
- Two (2) 12-inch pieces of string
- Glue
- Pencil, markers, crayons, or colored pencils



Follow these steps:

1. Draw and color a picture on two disks of cardstock. The two pictures should create one whole picture (flower and pot, bride and groom, horse and rider, bird and cage, etc.)
2. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Glue the two pictures back-to-back making sure that the pictures will match up when you "flip" the disk bottom-side up.
3. Punch holes on the right and left sides of the disk.
4. Thread a 12-inch piece of string through each hole and tie the ends to make two loops.
5. Holding the strings in the fingers of both hands, wind up the circle tightly.
6. Release the disk and watch it spin...seeing your two drawings form into one picture!

Pond House is home to many fun and educational programs held in the house and surrounding Pond Dakota Mission Park throughout the year. Visit blm.mn/pondhouse to learn more about this historically and culturally important Bloomington landmark.