

Treasure House Arty Makes - Cycle Race Zoetrope

What is a Zoetrope?

A zoetrope is a Victorian invention used to bring a series of images to life, like an animation. It is simply a drum with slits cut into it and a series of images attached to inside the drum. You look through the slits by holding them at eye level while rotating the drum. The images appear to move like a comic strip animation.

You can watch the video on the website to help you make your own, or use the instructions below. Children will need help and supervision from parents.

Instructions:

- Print out the templates
- Cut out the largest disc, draw around it onto a piece of thick cardboard, like a delivery box, and cut it out.
- Make a hole in the middle of the cardboard disc, for a pencil to fit in. Ask an adult for help. This will be the base of your drum.
- Cut out the two long templates. These are the sides of your drum, with slits.
- If you have printed your templates out onto thin card you don't need to draw around them onto another piece of card. If you have printed onto paper, draw around them onto a piece of card, like a cereal packet, and cut them out.
- Join the two pieces together to make a circular drum using sticky tape or glue.
- Fold in the short tabs and tape the drum around the edge of the cardboard disc.
- Cut out the strips with the stick men cyclists on them.
- Join the two strips together to make a circle and place it inside your zoetrope drum.
- Cut out the two smaller discs. Draw around them onto the thick cardboard and cut them out. Make holes in the centre of both of these discs. Ask an

adult for help. Glue or tape one disc on top of the hole in the drum and the other underneath the hole.

- Poke your pencil through the hole. Use sticky tape to keep it firmly in place.
- Now your zoetrope is ready to go. Hold the drum with the slits level with your eye. Hold the pencil between your flat palms and twizzle it to make the drum rotate and your cyclists race!

You can swap the cyclists for the bouncing ball strip. You can colour the ball in if you like. Make it in the same way you did the cyclists.

Create your own animation

Why not have a go at creating your own animation. Cut out the blank animation templates. Decide what you are going to create. For example: draw a face with a sad frown in the first box, which gradually turns into a big smile by the 6th box and then turns back into a frown by the 12th box. Stick the two parts of the strip together to make a circle and slot it into your zoetrope to watch your animation.

Have fun!

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