**LET’S MAKE A THAUMATROPE!**

A thaumatrope is a scientific toy used to create an optical illusion. Optical illusions can trick the eye into seeing something that is not really there—like magic! By rolling a thaumatrope rapidly between your hands, you can make two separate images appear as one. We should give it a try!

**MATERIALS:**
- Ruler
- Sturdy paper, like card stock
- Scissors
- Black marker
- Round stick, coffee stirrer, or pencil
- Tape

**1.** Use your ruler to measure and cut out two three-by-three-inch squares.

**2.** Use the marker to draw a figure in the center of each square. The figures should be just alike but doing something slightly different.

**3.** Tape the stick securely to the back of one of the squares.

**4.** Line up the two squares and tape them together.

**5.** Holding the stick between the palms of your hands, roll the stick back and forth. The figure will look like it is moving!

**6.** What other ideas do you have for a thaumatrope? The possibilities are endless!

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