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 moving image. Let’s give it a try!

Materials
Card stock
Ruler
Scissors
Black marker
Round stick, coffee stirrer, or pencil
Tape

1. Use your ruler to measure two three-inch by three-inch squares. Cut them out with your scissors.

2. Draw two nearly identical figures, one in the center of each square. Make each figure do something slightly different with their arms.

3. Securely tape the stick halfway up on 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 it back and forth. The figure will look like it’s moving!

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