

PARENT NOTES: ANIMATION!

ZOETROPE



Today we learned about the history of cartoons by building a zoetrope, which is a spinning optical illusion similar to the thaumatrope which is part of the Super Sight experiments. When spun quickly enough, the zoetrope confuses the brain to believe that the drawing is one image that is moving rather than individual images that are slightly different. We changed the speed of the rotation to see how this can affect the speed of the animation, and used it to slow down and speed up time!

ASK YOUR CHILD

What did you make today?

(A zoetrope, which is a type of early animation technology).

How does it work?

(It is an optical illusion which spins so fast that it makes us think we are seeing one moving image instead of lots of still frames, like a flick book).

What animation is inside your zoetrope?

What do you know about zoetropes and cartoons?

(Zoetropes were the first type of cartoon made and show how cartoons are made up from lots of different images seen in sequence)

