



Moving Images:

Bringing the world closer

Making a zoetrope / Teachers notes

Focus

The activity is designed to introduce students to the construction of a zoetrope and how it works.

Objectives

Students will:

- learn about how a zoetrope works
- construct a zoetrope.

Outcomes

All students will:

- construct a zoetrope and observe the moving image produced when it spins and they look through the slits.

Most students will also:

- be able to describe what they can see.

Some students will also:

- explain why the image is seen to move.

Equipment

- Sugar paper.
- Zoetrope template.
- 16 cm diameter black zoetrope disc.
- Scissors.
- Roll of sellotape.

- Worksheet: *Making a zoetrope* (1 copy per student).

- Wooden dowel.
- Stapler.
- Glue.
- Straw.
- Small wooden wheel.
- Large wooden wheel.

Running the activity

Tell the students that they are going to make a zoetrope. Give the students a copy of the 'Making your own zoetrope' worksheet. Introduce the equipment they are going to use and the procedure. Emphasise that when they are making the zoetrope to paste the two templates onto the sugar paper before cutting them out. They should line the two ends of the templates carefully together before securing them. Also the pictures should be on the inside of the drum created. When attaching the disc to the drum they should push the disc down from the top and when in position fold over and attach the tabs to the bottom of the disc one by one. They should put the dowel through the straw to spin the zoetrope and observe the image by looking through the slots as it spins. Finally they should observe what happens when they spin the zoetrope at different speeds.

When the students have made their zoetropes you can use their observations to introduce how the moving image is created or let the students develop their own explanations. Debrief the activity by asking groups to present their ideas, emphasise the key points and correct any misconceptions.