What is a thaumatrope?

A thaumatrope (from the Greek *thauma* ["wonder"] and *tropos* ["turn"], or "spinning wonder") is an optical toy that demonstrates persistence of vision. Persistence of vision is a phenomenon that happens with our eyes. When we see an image, the image is held on the retina in our eye for a fraction of a second. If we see another image right away, the two pictures appear to make up a single image. The thaumatrope, patented in 1826 by British doctor John Ayrton Paris, uses a small disc with a different picture on each side.

In one of our examples, one side of the disc pictures an empty birdcage, while the other side depicts a bird. When the thaumatrope is rapidly turned by the attached strings, the bird appears to be in the cage.
THAUMATROPE TEMPLATES

Example 1

Example 2
THAUMATROPE TEMPLATES

Draw Your Own Designs!