

Biology Bricks Activity

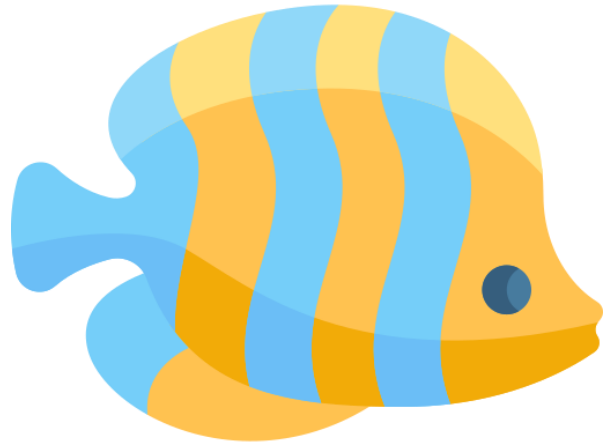
Putting the Fish in the Bowl

The eyes and brain work together to form images that you see. It works so fast, but for a split second, there is a residual image left behind, which is called *persistence of vision*.

This activity demonstrates how you can see two things at once, using a *thaumatrope*.

You will need:

- *Sharpened pencil*
- *Clear tape*
- *Two index cards*
- *Coloured pencils (optional)*



Instructions

1. To make your thaumatrope, first draw a fish and a bowl on the index cards, one on each. Make sure the fish is smaller than the bowl you draw.
2. Attach the drawings to the top half of a pencil by firmly taping them together around it. The pencil should be sandwiched between them, so you can spin it (not yet!)
3. Hold the bottom end of the pencil with the palms of your hand. Roll the pencil briskly back and forth. You will see the fish and the bowl appear individually.
4. Eventually, when you roll back and forth faster, you will notice that the fish will appear in the bowl. This is the optical illusion.

This is a design that has been around since the 1800s, and you might find them in a cylindrical drum that shows an entire short movie that was made in Victorian times.