Thaumatrope

Or one of the things they played with before movies

What you'll need:

2 index cards (3" x 5")
2 rubberbands
Pencil
Paper punch

1. Take one of the cards and draw a picture of something you can add to such as a cage without a bird or a plate without cookies. Keep it simple!
2. Now place the second card over the first card and draw the other part of your picture. If you drew a plate you can put cookies, a sandwich or anything else you want on it. Draw lightly at first. You can darken the lines later. To check whether you got the second drawing in the right place hold both cards up to the light. You should be able to see the drawing on the first one through the second card.
3. Here comes the tricky part. Take the second card and carefully flip it over bottom side first so the picture isn't facing you and is upside-down to the other card. See figure A.
4. Put the two cards together with the blank sides facing and punch a hole on either side through both cards. See figure B.
5. Keep holding the two cards together. Push one of the rubberbands through a hole not quite half way. Take the loop that was pushed through, put it through the second loop and pull until it's tight against the cards. See figure C. Do the same with the second rubberband.
6. It's time to try it out. Hold onto both rubberbands close to either side of the cards with your thumb and index finger. Roll the rubberbands between your fingers. Did you see the pictures come together to make a complete picture? The faster you spin it the more you can see the picture. Try it again. Does it match up correctly? Make any adjustments and then finish off the pictures by going over the lines in pen or coloring them in with crayons or markers.

Figure A

Figure B

over

Through and pull

Figure C

Tips and Hints

1. Thaumatropes can be different shapes. Try a round or square one.
2. To make the effect last longer attach a longer loop of string or rubberband to either side and twirl it tight then gently pull the string, bring it back it before it unwinds completely and pull it out again. With practice you can make the combine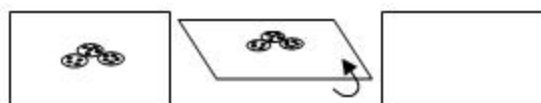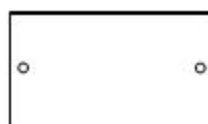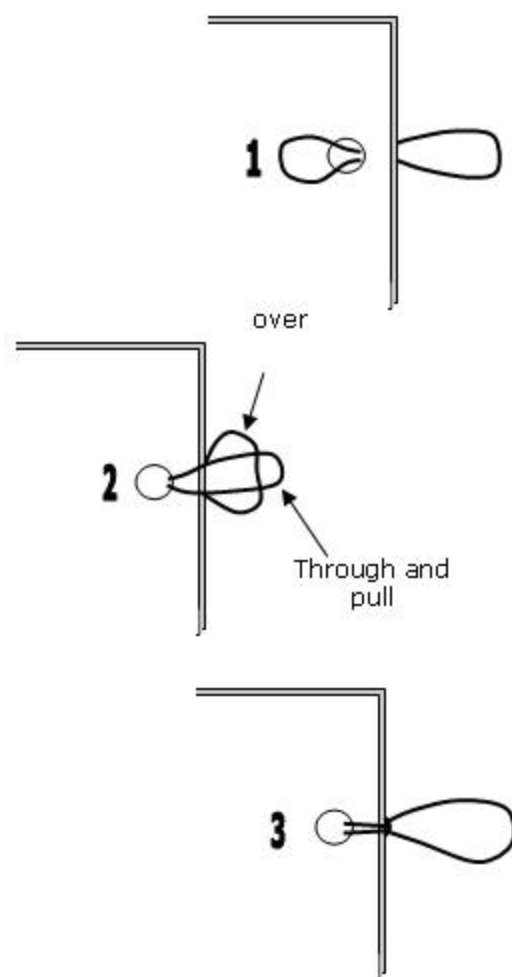d picture last a long time without too much effort.