



ZOETROPES

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY



OUTLINE OF ACTIVITY

The zoetrope, or wheel of life, is a modern variation to a simple Victorian toy. The kit contains a pattern and a blank template so that club members can produce their own animations.

EQUIPMENT

Quantities are based on a **make and take** approach to produce 20 zoetropes.

- black card x 20
- zoetrope templates x 20
- black, correx zoetrope discs x 20
- scissors x 10
- roll of sellotape
- wooden dowel
- glue guns x 2
- glue sticks
- straws x 20
- small wooden wheels x 20
- large wooden wheels x 20

SCIENCE CONTEXT

Light, we see things only when light enters our eyes.

SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION

When you look at an object an image is retained on the retina of your eye for a short time. This is why the world doesn't go black when you blink. When the zoetropes spins quickly and you look through the moving slits of the zoetrope, you see many images, but your brain is unable to distinguish between them. This is called 'the persistence of vision'. The illusion creates a moving object. When you watch TV or a film at the cinema you see 24 pictures each second. Without the persistence of vision you'd see a succession of still images when watching a film, or single lines when watching TV.