What's a Thaumatrope?

A thaumatrope is a toy first created in the 1800s. It is like an early animated cartoon that tricks your eyes into seeing two different pictures at the same time.

Make your own Thaumatrope

Shorebirds often match the color of the sand, so they have excellent camouflage. In this craft, you will try to get your shorebird to hide or camouflage in its favorite beach habitat. Can you fool your friends and family into seeing your bird hiding on the beach?
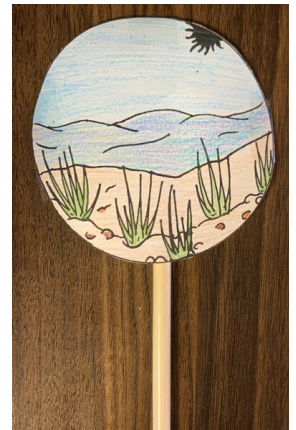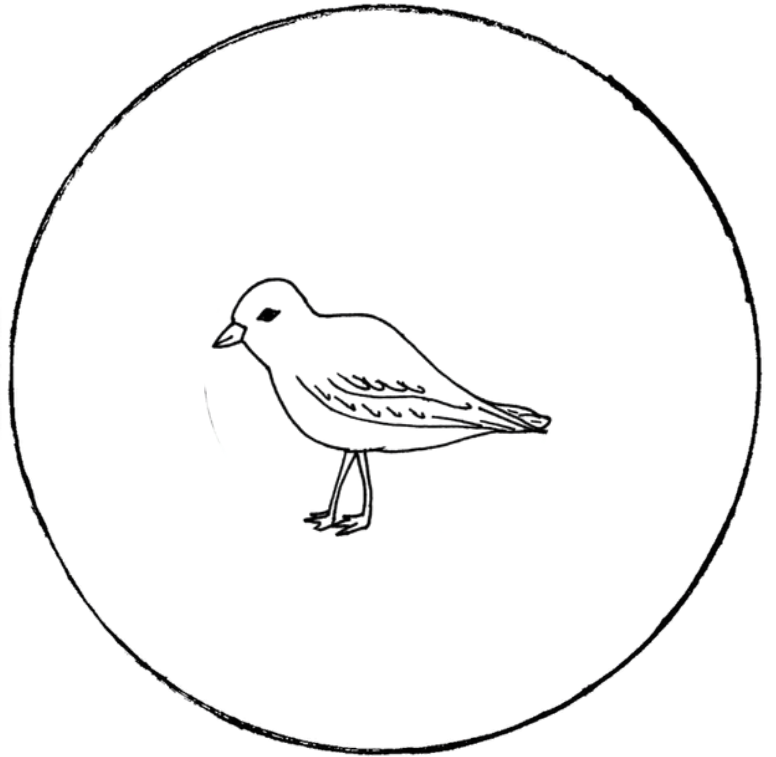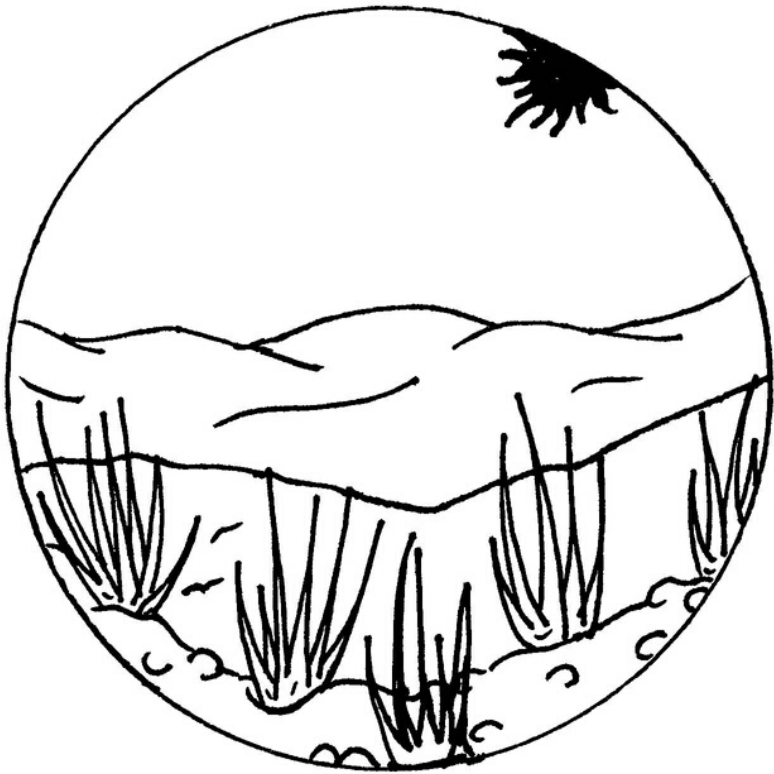
Materials:

- Scissors
- Tape
- Glue
- Templates (see below)
- Thin cardboard (from a cereal box)
- Markers or crayons
- Pencil or round chopstick

Directions:

1. Cut out the circles provided. You can choose to color the shorebird and beach illustrations supplied, or use the blank circles to draw and color your own!
2. After coloring, trace the two circles onto a piece of thin cardboard. A cereal box works well. Cut them out.
3. Glue your bird and beach pictures to the two thin cardboard circles to give them a stiff base. Let them dry for a few minutes.
4. Tape a pencil or chopstick to the back of the bird picture, making sure that a good length of the pencil or chopstick is securely taped to the cardboard.
5. Take your picture of the beach and tape it to the back of your bird picture, with the pencil or chopstick in between. The two pictures should be attached back to back, with a stick handle. Like the shape of a lollipop.
6. Once all the glue is dry, try out your thaumatrope. Place the pencil or chopstick between your hands with the pictures above, and rub your hands together quickly. As the pencil rolls back and forth in your hands, watch what happens to the two pictures! Share this fun trick with your friends and family.

Option 1

Option 2