Did You Know?! Circuses combine talented performers with illusion to create incredible shows. Illusions allow us to experience events in different ways, kind of like a trick! Today we will explore some illusions at home.

Paper Plate Spinning Wheel

- Take a paper plate, or another round piece of paper or cardboard, and color it completely with a pattern of your choice. Each side can have the same pattern or a different one!
- Poke two small holes in the middle and feed a string through so that you end up with a loop.
- If you don’t have string, you can also use a stick to poke through the center of your circle.
- Spin the wheel so it makes the string tight. Then, pull the string apart to make it spin! Watch the colors and patterns change before your eyes!
- Click here for a How-To Video
- Additionally, you can use a pencil/straw/stick and a piece of paper to make another illusion. Draw an image on either side. Then spin to watch the image combine! This illusion is called a Thaumatrope.
- Click HERE for printable templates, or design your own!

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