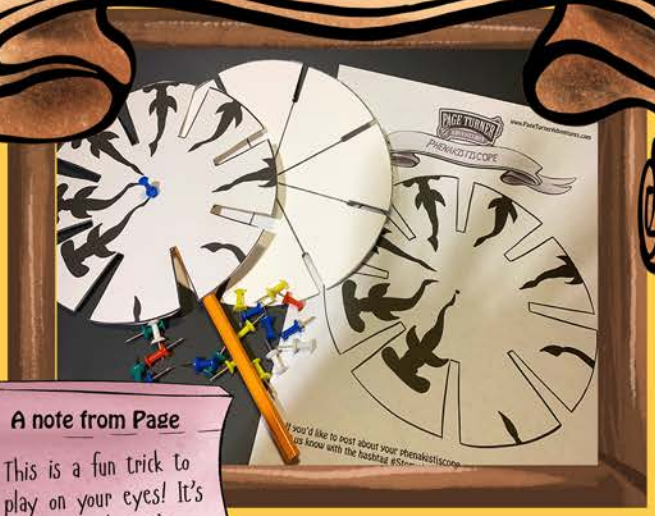
PHENAKISTOSCOPE



A note from Page

This is a fun trick to play on your eyes! It's like magic, but it's science.

Phenakistoscopes are low-tech animation devices that are often referred to as "animation wheels." The phenakistoscope uses persistence of vision. A phenomenon that tricks your brain into thinking the image is moving. The name phenakistoscope comes from the Greek words phenax, meaning 'deceiver,' and scopein, 'to see'. These early devices eventually led to the development of cinema.

Materials:

- Cardstock (or paper and a file folder)
- Scissors
- Pencil, Markers, Crayons
- Blank Template
- Thumbtack
- Pencil with Eraser
- Mirror
- Templates

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Directions:

1. Print out the template. You can begin with the pre-drawn templates then use the blank template to create your own animation. The template can be printed onto cardstock or printed on paper then glued to a stiffer material like a file folder.

2. Cut out the template.

3. If you're creating your own animation, draw a picture in each section of the circle. The images should be only slightly different. Start with something simple: a dot, a face, stick figures, etc.

4. Use a thumbtack to carefully attach the phenakistoscope to the pencil eraser. Make sure the circle spins freely.

5. Hold the phenakistoscope up to a mirror. Look through one of the gaps. Spin the circle, while continuing to look straight ahead. It should look as if your image is animated! You might have to experiment with where you look and the speed that you spin the circle.

If you'd like to post your phenakistoscope let us know with the hashtag #Storyologist!

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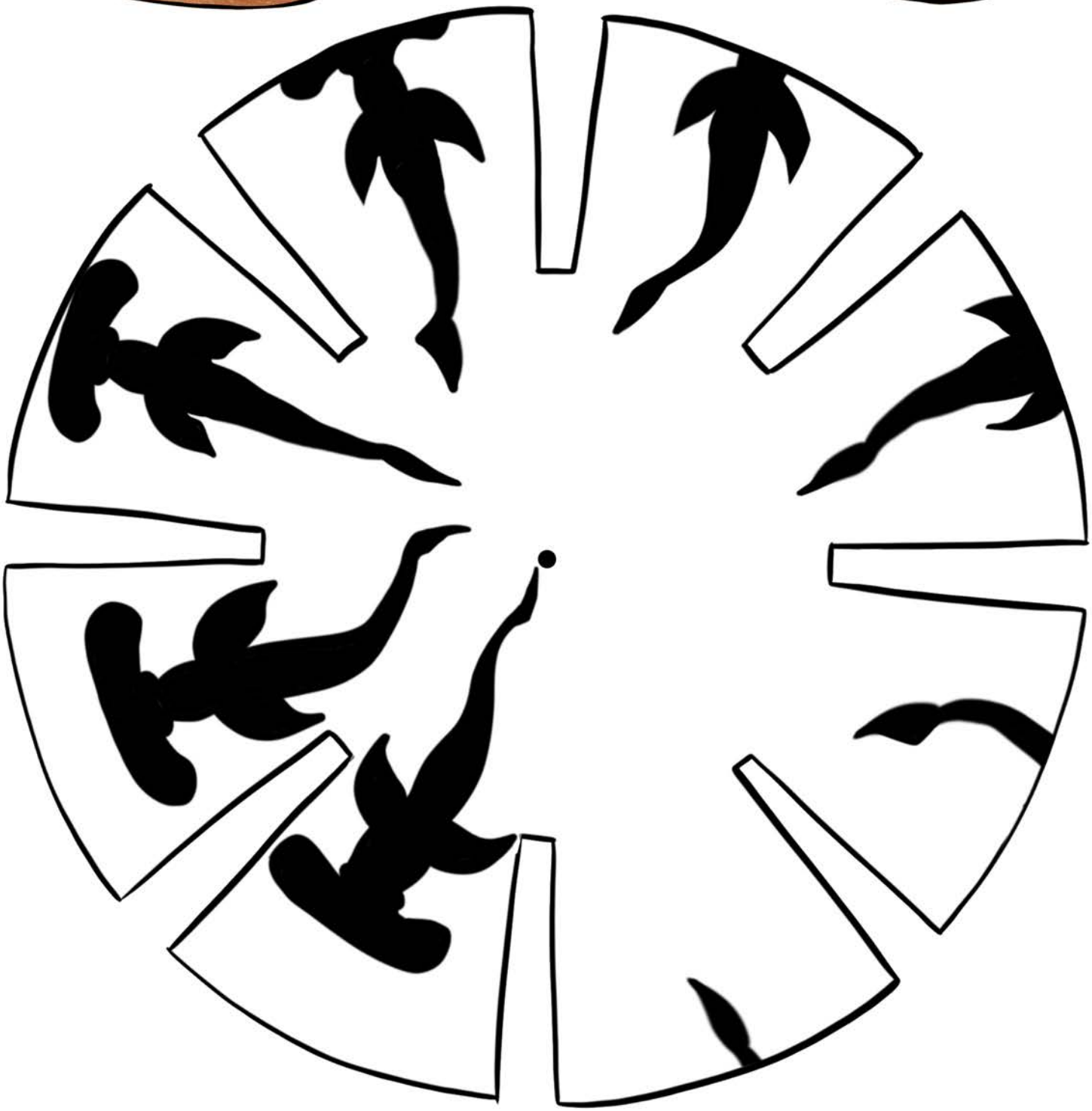

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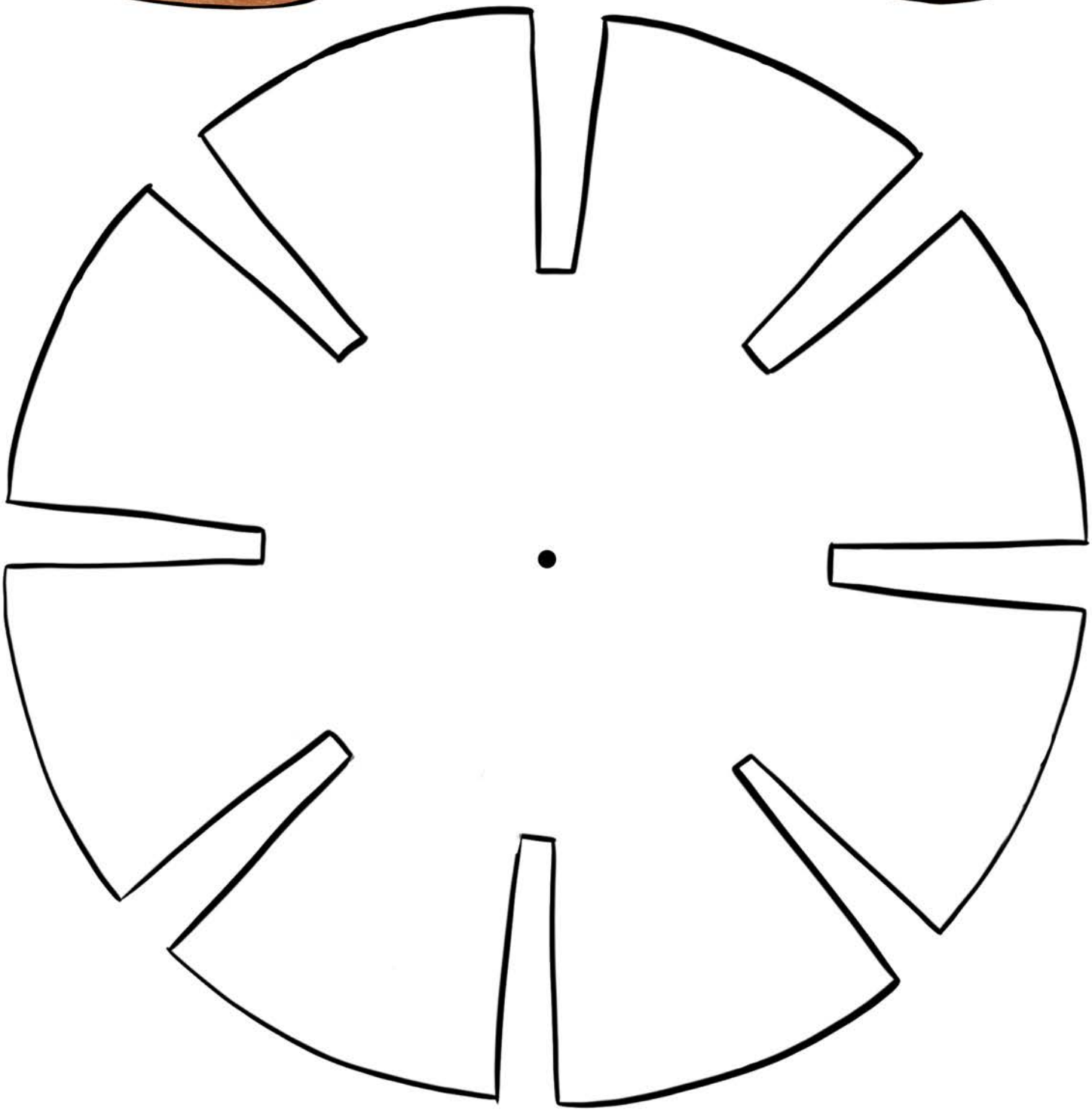

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