

Handmade Still Matters

An activity of “The filmmaker who does not like CGI or AI”.

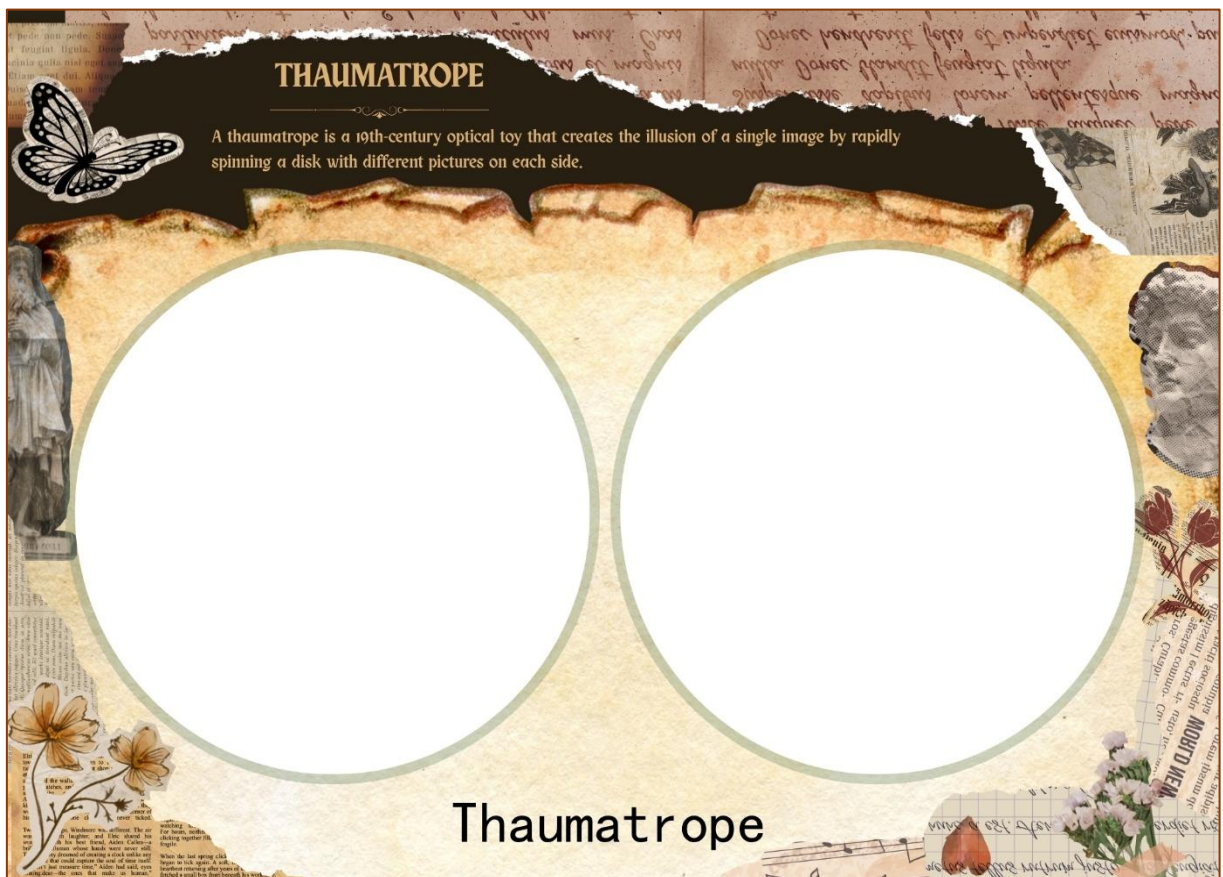
Read “The filmmaker who does not like CGI or AI” (page17, *What's Up* June 2026). The article explains why and how filmmaker Wes Anderson uses handmade props for his stop-motion animation even though CGI and AI are available today.

1. Discuss with a partner:
 - What were some handmade things mentioned in the article?
 - In what way does stop-motion animation take a lot of patience?
 - Why does Wes Anderson still choose to use handmade puppets and sets even when CGI and AI are easily available to use?
2. Let's try making a very simple handmade animation. A Thaumatrope is a 19th century optical toy that creates the illusion of a single image by rapidly spinning a disk with different pictures on each side. Make a thaumatrope by following the instructions in this video.

Thaumatrope

- <https://youtu.be/FqwRmMaPZ08?si=v0yKdQuAhtOsY0u0>
(Pitkin County Library, 22 Apr 2020)

You may use the template below to draw, colour, and cut out your designs.



3. Machines and AI can make many things very quickly. Sometimes, that is very useful. However, there are also times when people prefer something handmade. For each item below, choose which you would prefer. There are no incorrect answers. The important thing is to explain your reason. Share your responses with your partner.

Item	I prefer handmade	I prefer machine/ AI-made	My reasons
Birthday cards			
Clothes			
Toys			
Music performances			
Animated movies			
Storybooks			
School worksheets			
Home decorations			

4. Discuss with your partner:

- In your view, why is it sometimes better to use machines or AI?
- When might handmade or human-made work be more meaningful?
- What is one handmade thing you hope will continue to be human-made?

5. Imagine a future where almost everything is made by machines or AI. Everything is flawless and perfect. Cakes are perfectly shaped, clothes are perfectly stitched, music has no wrong notes, cards and messages are written instantly, and so on. Handmade objects have become so rare that they are kept in a museum.

One day, your future self visits such a museum. Write a short story titled “The Museum of Handmade Things”. Use the following template to draft your story. Consider including:

- At least one object in the museum that captures your attention
- Why the object matters
- Description of the object
- Your thoughts and feelings as you look at that object
- What happens at the end of your visit to the museum.



6. Share your story with your classmates.