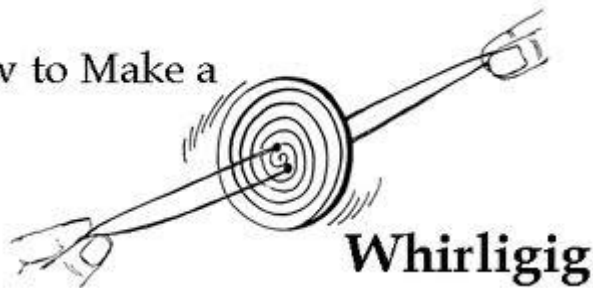




## Extension Activities

### Homemade Toys: Whirligigs (Two Ways)

How to Make a



Most families could not afford to buy toys in the 1800s, so materials for toys and games had to be inexpensive and easy to make. Some children were able to make their own toys made with materials such as cotton, dried plant fibres, and wood. Wood specifically was made to make toys such as building blocks, whirligigs, Jacobs Ladder and wooden stilts.

#### **You will Need:**

- Paper Plate
- String
- Markers, Pencils, Crayons
- Scissors
- Hole Punch
- Large Button

#### **Steps:**

1. Decorate a paper plate using paint, crayons, markers or craft embellishments like feathers, sequins, lightweight beads or foam cut-outs.
2. Cut the paper plate into a corkscrew shape starting at the edge of the plate and working your way to the center. You could also create decorative edges around the corkscrew shape by using pinking shears or drawing a design around the plate before cutting it.
3. Punch a hole into the center of the corkscrew using a single hole- punch.
4. Thread a piece of yarn through the hole and tie the end in a knot to secure it to the plate. Make sure the yarn is at least 12 inches long.

5. Hang the corkscrew whirligig on your porch or in a tree and watch it spin when the wind blows. You could also let the kids run around outdoors with the whirligig to create the spinning effect.

**Examples:**



**Steps to make a Whirligig with button and String:**

1. Cut a 24-inch length of string.
2. Thread the string through the holes in the button. You need a flat one with at least two holes (alternatively, you could use a small paper plate and insert two small holes roughly 1 inch apart in the centre of the plate).
3. Tie the string ends together in a knot.
4. Spin the button to twist the strings, with the button in the center. Insert your fingers in the loops. Pull the strings to let them begin to untwist. Release the pressure and then pull the string taut again to keep the whirligig spinning.

