Discover:

Photography and Film

Key Facts

- The word photograph comes from Greek and means 'light drawing'. It was first used in the 1830s.
- A forerunner of the camera was the camera obscura, which projects images into a dark room or box. The theory of the camera obscura has probably existed for thousands of years.
- In the 1820s, a French amateur inventor called Nicéphere Niépce created a technique called heliography using the sun. He combined it with the camera obscura to take the first photograph.
- In the 1850s, stereoscopes became very popular. Two pictures were taken and seen through a viewer, giving the illusion of 3 dimensions.
- By the 1870s, cameras had developed to contain rolls of film, which could be sent off to special factories to be printed.
- Before colour photography was developed, portrait studios would hire artists to colour in black and white photos by hand.
- Film is actually a series of still photos shown very quickly, one after the other. It is an optical illusion that makes them look like one continuous movement.

Where to find more:

- Have a look at the Our Warwickshire website to find out about Leamington photographer James Speight.
- Discover Windows on Warwickshire for all sorts of historic photos from the county. You can search for a key word or place or browse the themes.
- It's a myth that Victorians never smiled in their photographs. Have a look at some happier portraits in this article from History Extra.
- See the history of photography in some iconic pictures on the Science and Media Museum website.
- Have you discovered the British Pathé archive? You can see a large number of film clips including this one of Stratford upon Avon in 1932.

Camera Obscura

You will need:

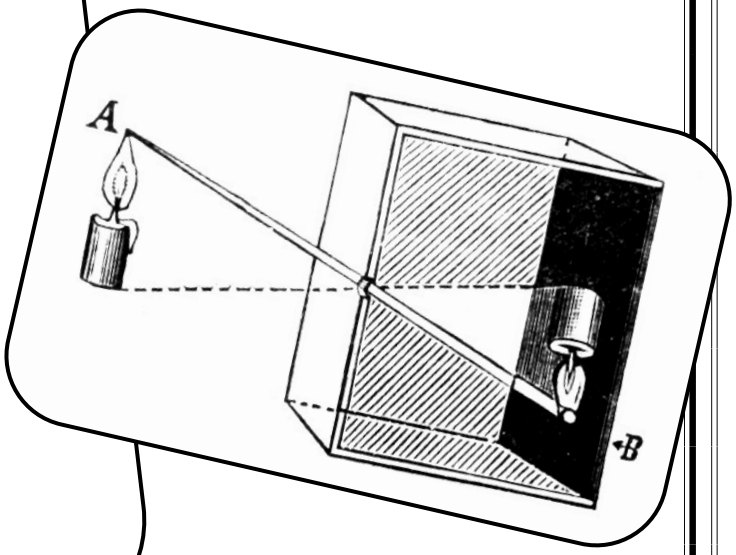
Two tubes. One should be slightly smaller than the other one so it will fit inside it.

A piece of foil

A piece of tracing paper

Masking tape

A pin



1. Tape the piece of foil to one end of the larger tube.
2. Pierce a tiny hole into the centre of the foil.
3. Tape the piece of tracing paper onto one end of the smaller tube.
4. Insert the small tube into the larger tube tracing paper end first.
5. In a brightly lit area place the open end of the tube to your eye and have a look at the world upside down!
6. The image will change if you move the tracing paper closer to or further away from the pinhole end.

How to make:

A Phenakistoscope

You will need:

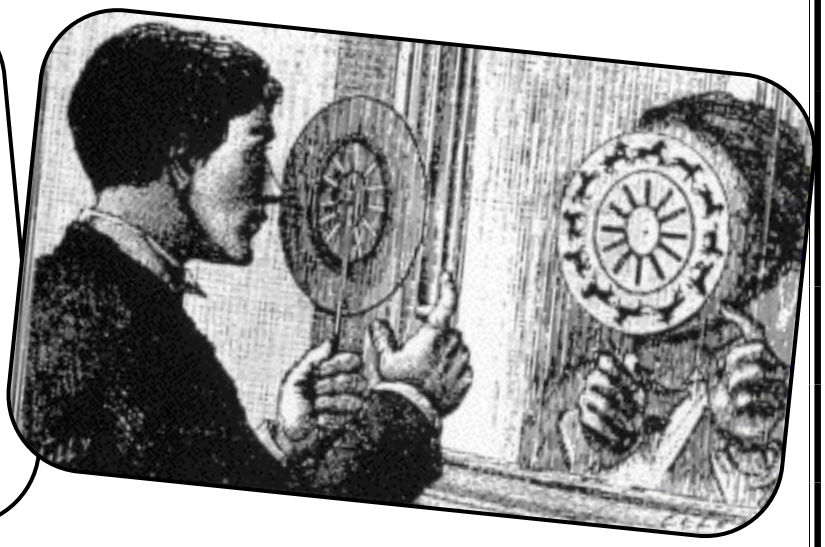
Template

Pencil

Stiff card

Straw

Paper fastener



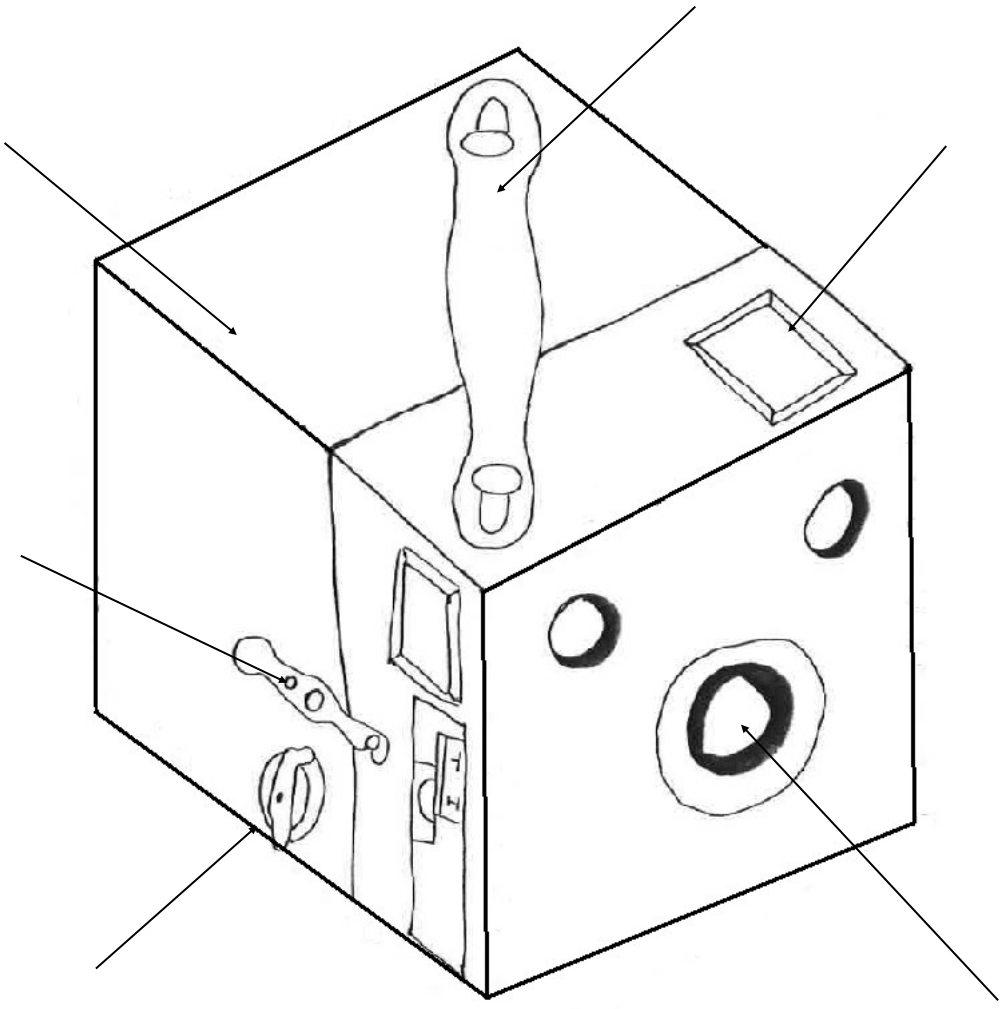
1. Draw around the template onto the stiff card. Cut out the circle and the slits. Make sure the size of the slits around the circle are equal and the sides are straight.
2. You can use the template on the next page, or draw your own.
3. If you draw your own, you need to draw an animation that can repeat as you spin the phenakistoscope around.
4. You might want to colour in your animation.
5. When you have finished your animation take it, your straw and paper fastener to an adult. Ask them to push the paper fastener through the middle of the piece of card and through the straw.
6. The holes in both should be large enough to allow the phenakistoscope to spin. Attach the piece of card (animation on the outside) to the straw.
7. The phenakistoscope is ready to use. Hold it up facing a mirror and spin it. As it spins watch the animation through the slits and you should see a moving image.

Phenakistoscope Template

You can use this template to make your own phenakistoscope. After, why not trying drawing your own animation? A running horse or a balloon floating away would work well.

Label the Box Camera

Box cameras were one of the earliest types of camera to be invented. Can you match the words in the box below to the correct parts of the camera in the picture?



Strap	Lens	Lock
Case	Viewfinder	Film Advance

Colouring In