Boredom invites people to use their imaginations by making games out of common materials. What if you just had string and a button? Whirligigs operate on simple physics: after spinning the whirligig on itself, the toy uses momentum to spin back on itself repeatedly. If the user continues to pull and release the strings, it can spin back and forth continuously. Kids, camp followers, and soldiers alike loved whirligigs because they were so easy to make. Archaeologists even find them in places where people lived and worked, like forts and soldiers’ campsites. You can make your own whirligig with supplies around your home!

**MATERIALS**

- Printed template on cardstock
- One piece of cardboard
- Scissors
- Glue
- Crayons or Markers
- 2 foot length of string

**DIRECTIONS**

1. Print the two circles from the template on card stock.
2. Using one of the template circles, trace and cut out a medium-sized circle from cardboard.
3. Glue the card stock circles on either side of the cardboard circle. Wait for the glue to dry.
4. Decorate your circle with markers or cut designs into the edges.
5. Punch 2 holes into the center of the circle.
6. Cut string 2 feet long.
7. Thread string through the holes so that it creates a loop and tie the loop at the end.
8. Holding each end of the string, spin the Whirligig until it is tight. Alternate releasing and tightening the string to make it spin. Keep trying! This toy takes some time to master!
WHIRLIGIG TEMPLATE