

## Pioneer Toy Crafts

Without TV, planned activities or expensive toys, children from the past had to be resourceful in organizing their own amusements and making their own toys. Try out making a classic pioneer toy!

### **Spinning Tops**

To make this craft you will need:

- Cardboard
  - Sharpies
  - Hot glue
  - A cup for tracing a circle
  - A pencil
  - Pennies
  - Scissors
  - X-Acto knife
1. Use a cup to trace circles onto cardboard and cut them out.
  2. Use the X-Acto knife to make slit in center for the penny.
  3. Color the tops of the cardboard in colorful patterns.
  4. Attach the penny to the spinner by hot gluing it on the underside of the top.
  5. Spin!



## Make a Pioneer Toy: Jumping Jack

The jumping jack had moving arms and legs and would often be carved out of wood. This is one of the few toys pioneer children had and would be treasured by all the children in the family.

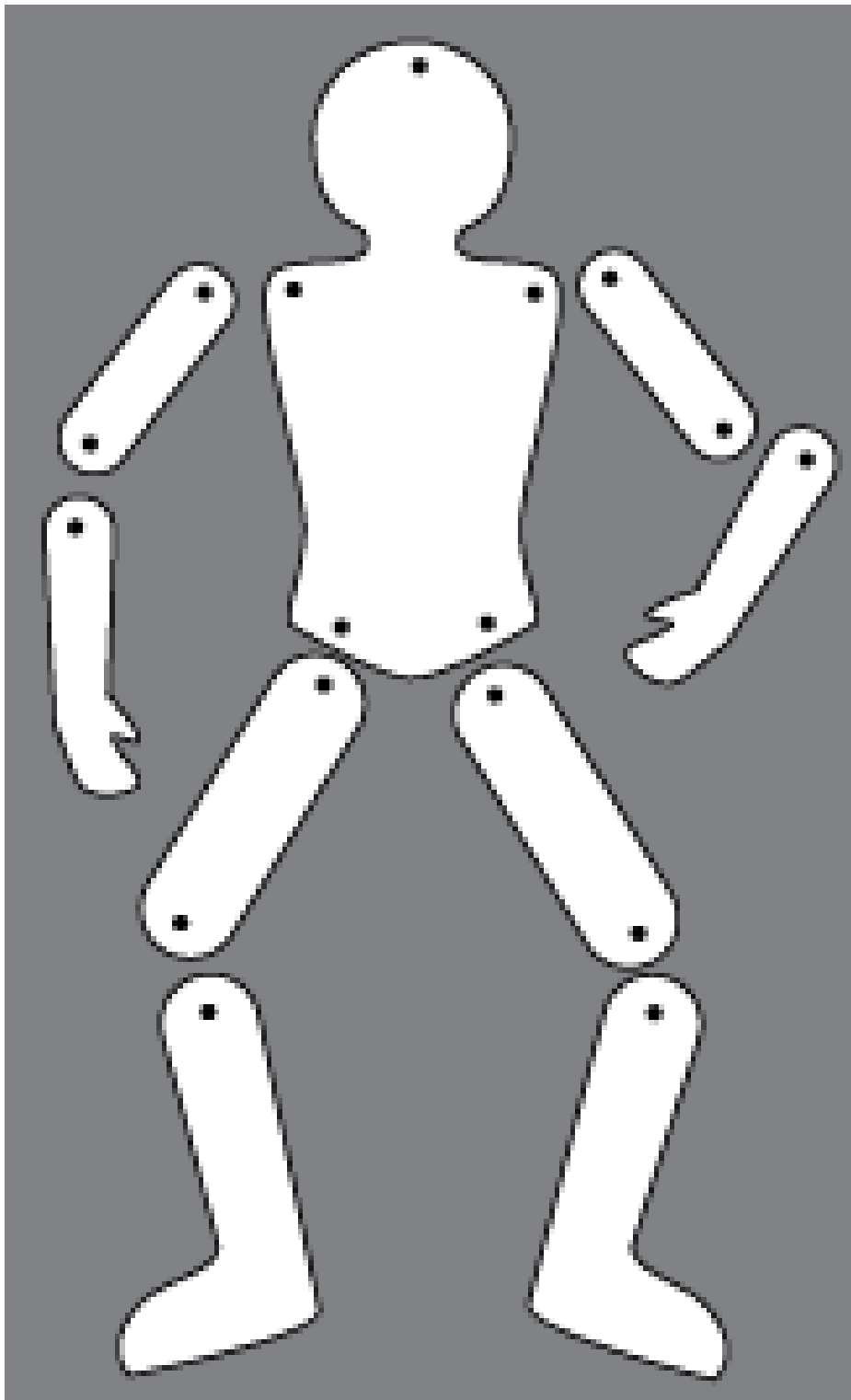
### You will need:

- Tracing paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Tape
- Heavy cardboard
- Makers or crayons
- Pushpin
- 8 brass paper fasteners
- String
- Hole punch



1. Draw the body parts a piece of hard cardboard. You may use the printable provided in the Activity Guide.
2. Colour in clothing and a face.
3. Cut out the cardboard pieces.
4. Use a hole punch to punch out the holes (marked by an A).
5. Use the paper fasteners to fasten the arms and legs to the body. Cut one piece of string long enough to make a loop.
6. Thread it through the top of the head and knot it.
7. Cut two more pieces of string.
8. Use a push pin to make a hole (marked by a black dot).
9. Thread string through the two small holes at the shoulders. Tie together.
10. Thread string through the two small holes at the hips. Tie together.
11. Tie another piece of string to the shoulder and hip strings. Let the tail of the string hang free.

To play the jumping jack, hold it by the loop on the head and pull the hanging string. The arms and legs will jump and flex.



## Make a Pioneer Toy: Whirligig

Pioneer children spent most of their time in the one room schoolhouse or doing chores. Their families did not have much money so children rarely had store bought toys. They had to use their imaginations and make their own toys or come up with games.

One popular toy that was easy to make is the whirligig. Make your very own by following the instructions below!

You will need:

- 2 feet of string
- 2 large colourful buttons with 2 to 4 holes

Instructions:

Thread the string through the holes in the button.  
Tie the ends of the string together to create a loop.  
Holding both string endings between the thumb and index finger twirl the buttons until the string is taut.  
Then stretch the string and pull it hard to make the buttons spin.  
Continue to pull hard, alternating between stretching and relaxing the string.  
It will make a “whirligig” sound!

Pioneer children were mesmerized by this toy and would be entertained for hours on end!

