**Alabama Whirligig**

Whirligig is a name used to describe anything that continuously whirls, moves, or changes. During the 19th century (1800s), people used this word to describe children’s wind-up motion toys.

Make a paper whirligig and give it a twirl!

Directions:

1. Cut out the Alabama shape.
2. Cut the dotted lines.
3. Fold flap A and flap B back on top of each other.
4. Place a paper clip or tape at the bottom of the A-B fold.
5. Bend blade C away from blade D in opposite directions.
6. Throw the Whirligig in the air and watch what happens!

Does your whirligig turn clockwise or counterclockwise? Switch and fold blades C and D the other way. Now which way does it twirl? Try different blade lengths and widths to experiment with aerodynamics (the study of objects moving through air.)

Go to archives.alabama.gov for more information about Alabama!