Make Your Own Pinwheel

Children have been playing with pinwheels for over 2000 years. The design for the pinwheel was copied from a windmill. Farmers harnessed wind power to grind grain and pump water. Follow the instructions below to make your own pinwheel.

Materials:
Unsharpened pencil or straw
Pencil
Ruler
Piece of construction paper, cut in
a 5-inch square
Scissors
Glue
2 beads with small holes
Straight pin
Quarter

Directions:

1. Use the ruler and pencil to draw a line from the top right corner of the construction paper to the bottom left corner.
2. Draw a line from the top left corner to the bottom right corner.
3. Place the quarter in the center of your square and trace it.
4. Mark the center of your square with a dot.
5. Number the corners of your square 1-4.
6. Starting at the corner, cut along your pencil lines. Stop when you reach the edge of your circle.
7. Put a small dot of glue in the center of your circle. Then, fold corner 1 to the center and hold the corner down until it stays on its own.
8. Glue corner 2 on top of corner 1. The corners will overlap a little.
9. Continue gluing the other corners the same way.
10. Put one of your beads onto the straight pin and stick the pin through the center of the pinwheel.
11. Put the other bead on the back of the pin. Push the point of the pin into the eraser on the unsharpened pencil, or through the straw. If the pin pokes through, have an adult cut or bend the pin so it is safe to play with.
12. Don't forget to decorate your pinwheel!

To discover more, check out this painting from 1663. Can you find the child playing with a pinwheel?
https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.1220.html