

A Pinwheel History

Long ago, in the 1800's, the pinwheel was a simple toy for children made from curls of paper or plastic in the shape of a wheel that were pinned on a stick.

Children held the pinwheel in the air to watch the wind catch its corners and spin it around.

Because it can be moved by gently blowing on it or by a light breeze, the pinwheel is a visual representation of calm and harmony. It reminds us of peaceful warm, sunny days when there was just enough wind to spin the pinwheel colors around.

The stars and stripes on this pinwheel can be colored in red, white, and blue—the colors of our flag—to make a patriotic pinwheel. A thoughtful reflection about patriotism from Adlai Stevenson evokes many of the same feelings we get when we see a pinwheel. Stevenson said, "Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime."

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