

From: <https://entertainment.howstuffworks.com/yo-yo-basics1.htm>

The history of the yo-yo is somewhat up in the air. No one really knows who first put two disks together with a small axle separating the halves and then tied a string to the axle and wound it up. Some historians say it was developed in ancient Greece, India, or China.

We do know, however, that the toy first became popular in both England and France in the late 18th century.

The yo-yo first became popular in the 1930s, when Duncan sent out teams of traveling yo-yo men (not women, mind you) who would spend three, four, and five weeks in cities and towns across America, teaching tricks, selling yo-yos, and running contests.

Here are some different tricks that you can do with your YO-YO. Snap a picture or make a video to share with your classmates.

1. The Gravity Pull

Step 1: Hold the yo-yo in your yo-yo hand in front of you, palm down, slightly above your waist. Open your hand and let the yo-yo unroll toward the ground.

2. The Sleeper Yo-Yo Trick

Step 1: The initial motion is precisely the same as what is used in the [Throw Down](#). Hold your yo-yo hand out in front of you with the palm facing up. Remember, the string should come off toward the top and front of the yo-yo. Whip the yo-yo sharply toward the ground

Step 2: With a whipping motion, similar to that used when throwing a fastball, grab the yo-yo and flick it sharply toward the ground. It should stay down -- spinning -- at the end of the string.

Step 3: While the yo-yo is spinning, turn your yo-yo hand over, palm facing down. If the string tension is correct, the yo-yo should spin at the end of the string for a few seconds. Then give the string a jerk and the yo-yo should quickly return to your hand.

Check out more tricks at <https://entertainment.howstuffworks.com/easy-yo-yo-tricks3.htm>