



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

MAGIC ADVENT CALENDAR

TRICK & EXPERIMENT GUIDE



WARNING:

THIS SET CONTAINS CHEMICALS THAT MAY BE HARMFUL IF MISUSED.
READ CAUTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL CONTAINERS CAREFULLY. NOT TO BE USED BY CHILDREN EXCEPT UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION.

Adult Supervision is Recommended Read the instructions and cautions on the containers carefully. Do not ingest any of the chemicals in the kit. If swallowed, wash out mouth with water and drink some fresh water. If something gets splashed in the eyes or on the skin, flush thoroughly with water. Keep all the contents of this kit out of reach of young children and pets.





To find your local poison control center:

- In USA call 1 (800) 222-1222
- Internationally go to:

http://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical_safety/poisons_centres/en/

LOCAL POISON CONTROL
PHONE NUMBER

Safety Information:

Chemical	Danger Symbol	H-and P-Statements	CAS No.
Citric Acid		WARNING	5949-29-1
Hydrophobic Sand	None	None	60676-86-0
Phenol Red		WARNING	143-74-8
Instant Snow Powder (Sodium Polyacrylate)		WARNING	9003-4-7
Red Cabbage Powder		WARNING	89958-13-4
Sodium Bicarbonate	None	None	144-55-8

Warning: Causes serious eye irritation. If medical advice is needed, have product container or label at hand. Keep out of reach of children. Read label before use. Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection. Wash thoroughly after handling.

IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing. If eye irritation persists: Get medical advice/attention.



**Don't throw
it away...**

Be sure to save all
the materials you
receive throughout
the calendar for
future tricks!

Tips for Beginners

- Practice, practice, practice!
- Learn to do a few tricks well rather than a lot of them unconvincingly.
- Magic is acting—focus on your performance, not the trick itself.
- Never, ever reveal the secret of a trick, no matter how much your friends or family ask how you did it.

Follow the QR code
or web address
for instructional
videos of the
magic tricks:



www.thinkbluemarble.com/advent-magic

A Note on the Thumb Tip

In many cases, the thumb tip will not match the skin tone of the user. This is common. One of the most popular thumb tips in the world of magic is only available in one color.

To make thumb tip magic tricks work, hide the thumb tip whenever possible and keep the audience's attention away from the thumb tip. Our brains regularly miss finer details, so we fill in the gaps based on what is most likely to be true. Since hands don't typically have thumb tips like the one in this kit, the audience isn't likely to be looking for one.



Magician's Deck Overview

The cards in the Magician's Deck are cut especially for magic. One side is narrower than the other side, which means that if you take one card and reverse it, it will protrude slightly. You'll be able to feel that protrusion with your fingers, but the audience won't be able to see it.

You'll need to be careful how you shuffle the deck. The overhand shuffle is one effective method. Hold the cards in one hand and transfer a few cards at a time to the opposite hand. Be sure to watch our instructional video for more shuffling techniques.



Rising Wand

DAY
1

DAY
1

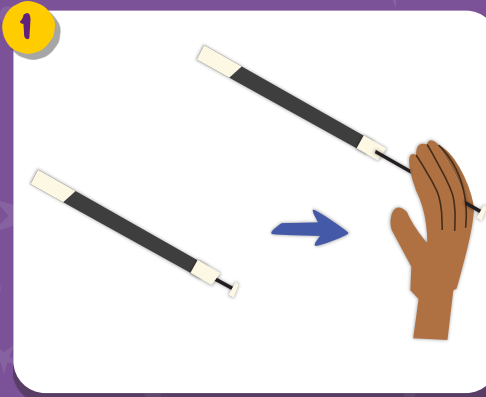
From the Kit: • Magic wand

Follow the QR code
or web address for
instructional videos
of the magic tricks:

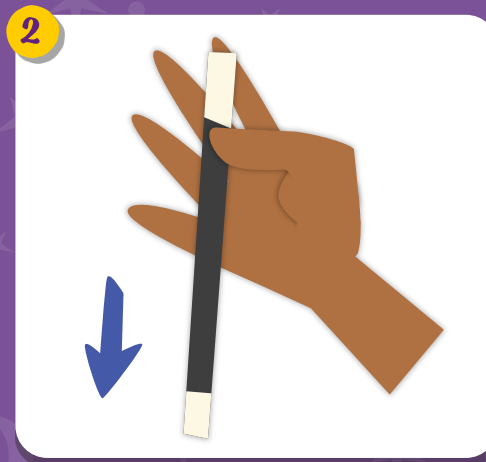


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What to Do:

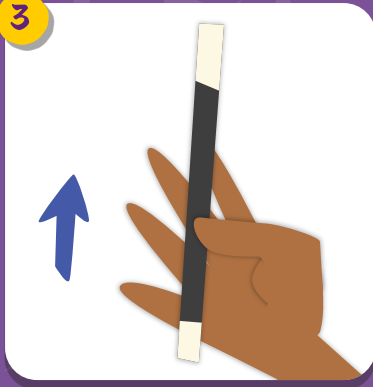


Your magic wand has special caps on each end connected to an elastic cord inside. You'll want to pull one of these ends out and hold the end cap between your right-hand ring and pinky fingers, just above the middle knuckle.



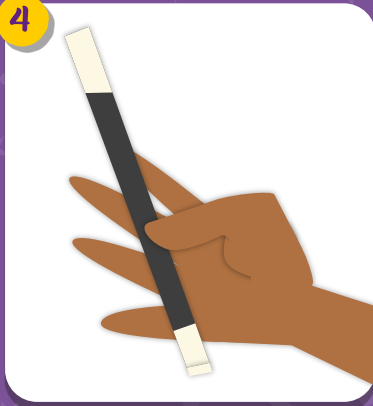
Stretch the cord so you can hold the opposite end of the magic wand in your right hand. Ensure the cord is hidden from the audience by positioning your right palm outward.

3



Hold the wand against your index and middle fingers with your thumb, then gently release the pressure. As you do, the tension from the elastic cord will move the wand upward. The audience will think it's moving up by magic!

4



When the wand has gone up as far as it can go, gently release the end cap from your pinky and ring fingers. Try your best to release the cap without making a sound or showing the audience!



The Science of Magic

Every culture in the world has included the belief in some kind of magic—whether that involved spells for healing, rituals to divine the future, practices to speak to the dead, or hexes to damage one's enemies. Some cultures honored those who had access to such secret knowledge, while others feared magic and tried to stamp it out.

Much of what was once considered magic has now been explained by scientific investigation, though the distinctions between magic and science have been a bit hazy.

Alchemy, which is usually dismissed as a form of magical nonsense, was in its heyday viewed as cutting edge science. Alchemists, like modern chemists, studied the essential properties of physical materials. But they also believed that things in the physical world corresponded to things in the spiritual world, and they used symbols, colors, and codes to extract the secrets of the universe, making their study more like what we think of as magic today.



Cups & Balls

DAY
2

DAY
2

From the Kit:

- Cups and balls
- Magic wand

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or web address for
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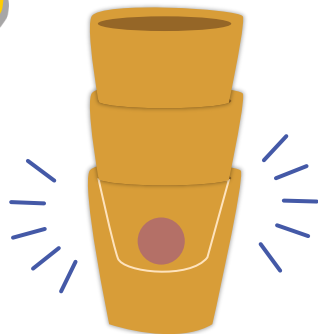
Before Your Performance

Place one of the four balls inside one of the cups. Stack the cups, one inside the other, so the cup with the ball inside is in the middle of the stack. Now you're ready to perform.



What to Do:

1

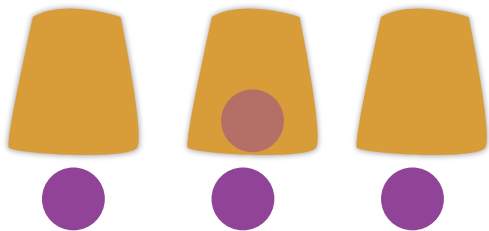


**BALL HIDDEN IN
MIDDLE CUP**



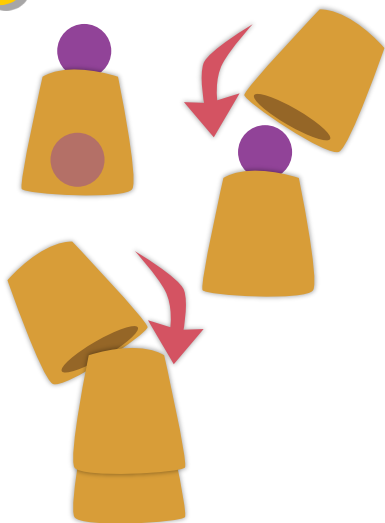
Place the remaining three balls side-by-side, evenly spaced, about 3-4 inches (7-10 cm) apart.

2



Place each of the cups behind the balls one at a time, open side down. As you place the middle cup behind the middle ball, be sure to rotate it quickly so the ball hidden inside the cup doesn't fall out and remains hidden from the audience.

3



Take the middle ball from the table and place it on top of the middle cup. Then, stack the right-hand cup on top of the middle cup. Then, stack the left-hand cup on top of the other two cups.

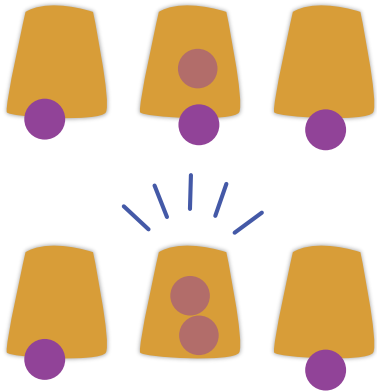
4



Tap the cups with your magic wand then lift the stack of cups and it will appear as if the ball you placed on top of the middle cup has magically fallen through back to the table! Meanwhile, the ball you placed on top of the cup in step 3 has now been hidden inside the middle cup in the stack.

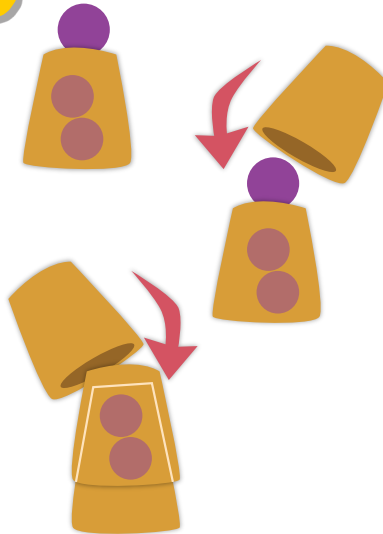
5

5



Place one empty cup behind the left-hand ball, place the middle cup with the ball hidden inside over the middle ball on the table. The audience will believe that only one ball is hidden under the middle cup, but you'll know that there are two! Place the final empty cup behind the ball on the right-hand side of the table.

6



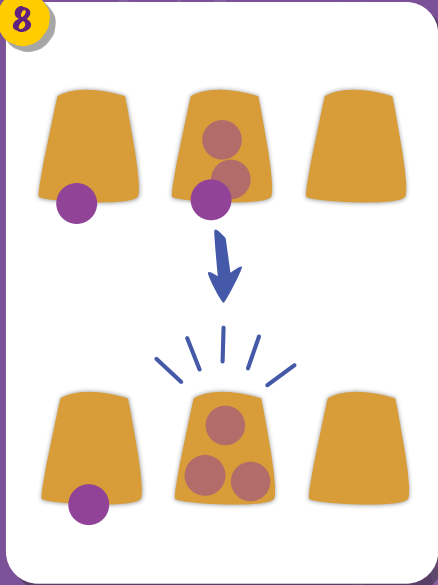
Take the ball on the right side and place it on top of the middle cup. Then, stack the right-hand cup on top of the middle cup. Then, stack the left-hand cup on top of the middle cups.

7



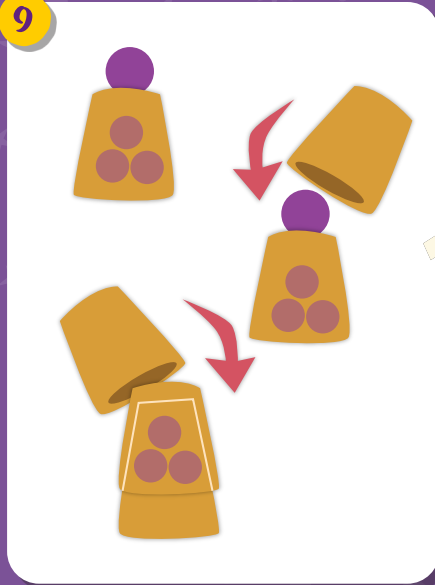
Tap the cups with your magic wand then lift the stack of cups and it will appear as if the ball you placed on top of the middle cup has magically fallen through, leaving two balls on the table! And again, one ball will be hidden inside the middle cup in the stack.

8



Place one empty cup behind the left-hand ball, place the middle cup with the ball hidden inside over the top of the two balls on the table. The audience will believe that only two balls are hidden under the middle cup, but you'll know that there are three! Place the final empty cup just to the right of the middle cup.

9



Take the final ball on the left-hand side and place it on top of the middle cup. Then stack the right-hand cup on top of the middle cup. Then, stack the left-hand cup on top of the middle cups.

10



Tap the cups with your magic wand, then lift the stack of cups and it will appear as if the final ball you placed on top of the middle cup has magically fallen through, leaving three balls on the table!

Incredible Water Ball

DAY
3

DAY
3

From the Kit:

- Hydrophobic sand
- Pipette

What to Get:

- Water
- Cup
- Plate or paper towel

What to Do:

1



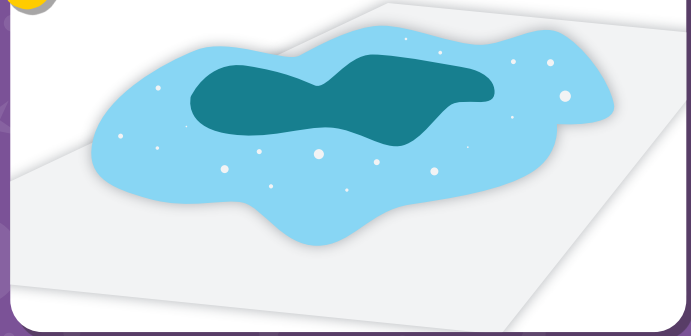
Make a pile of hydrophobic sand. You can make the pile of sand on top of a plate or paper towel for easy clean-up.

2



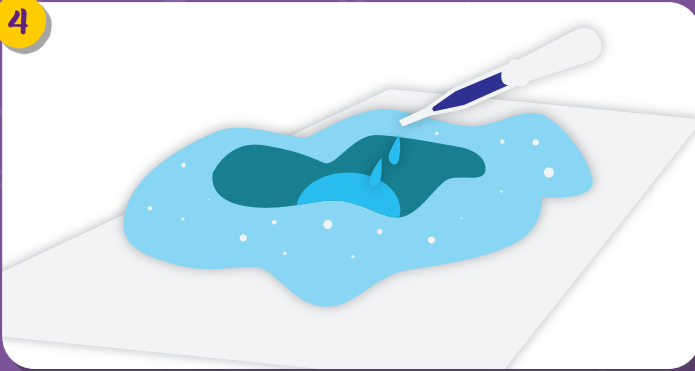
Add some water to the cup.

3



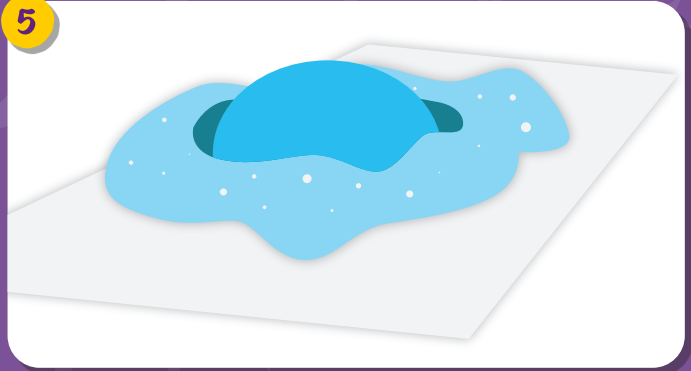
Create a wide crater in the sand with your fingertip.

4



Use the pipette to slowly drop water into the crater. A water bead will soon form that rolls around the sand but doesn't get absorbed!

5



Slowly add more droplets into the crater and the bead of water will grow and grow into an incredible water ball!

Make It Red

DAY
4

DAY
4

From the Kit:

- Red cabbage powder
- Citric acid
- Clear cup
- Beaker
- Pipette

What to Get:

- Water
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon

CAUTION: Adult supervision required for younger children.
Red cabbage powder can stain skin and other surfaces.

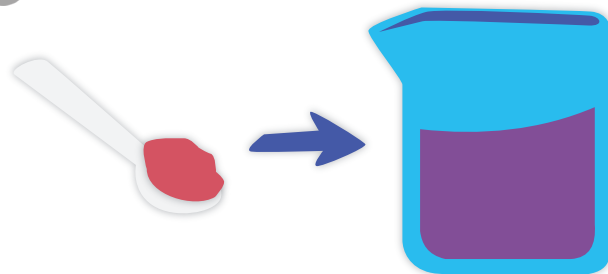
What to Do:

1



Fill the beaker with water to the 40 mL line.

2



Add half of $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon of red cabbage powder to the water and stir until the powder is completely dissolved. The solution you just created is your indicator.

3



Fill the clear cup $\frac{1}{2}$ full of water.

4



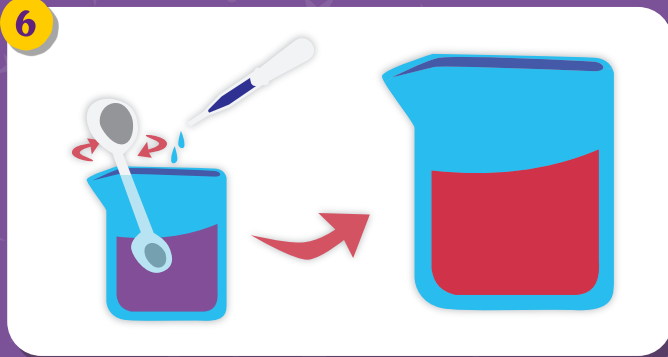
Add $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon of citric acid to the clear cup and mix well until the powder is dissolved. This is your acidic solution.

5



Fill your pipette with the acidic solution.

6



Using the pipette, slowly add the acidic solution to the indicator. Stir the indicator while you add the acidic solution. The indicator will change colors from purple to bright red!



Don't throw it away...

Save all your components for future experiments!

Magic Beaker

DAY
5

DAY
5

From the Kit:

- Red cabbage powder
- Sodium bicarbonate
- Citric acid
- 3 plastic cups
- Beaker

What to Get:

- Warm water
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon

Caution: Adult supervision required for younger children.
Red cabbage powder can stain skin and other surfaces.

What to Do:

Before you perform the trick

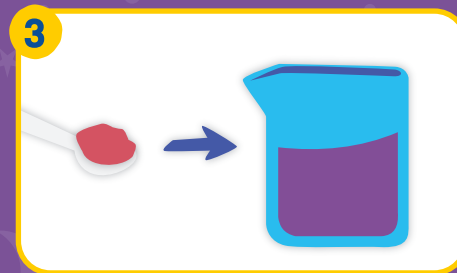


Add 10 mL of warm water and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of citric acid to a plastic cup. Mix until the powder is dissolved. This is your acidic solution and "red" cup.

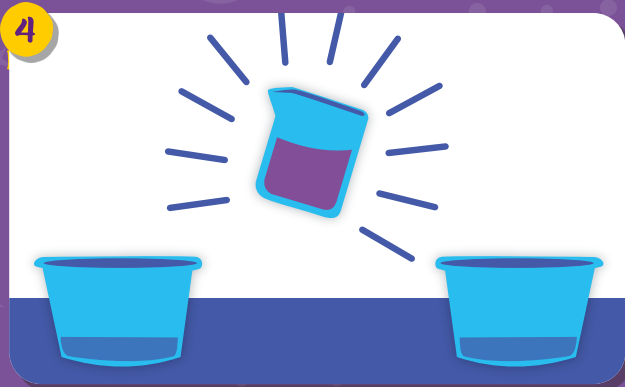


Add 10 mL of warm water and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of sodium bicarbonate to another plastic cup. Mix well until the powder is dissolved. This is your base solution and "blue" cup.

Now amaze your audience!



Add half of $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon of red cabbage powder to the beaker, then fill with 50 mL of water. Stir the powder until it's completely dissolved. This deep purple liquid is your pH indicator.



Put the beaker and plastic cups on a table. Ask your audience, "which two colors make purple?" When they say red and blue, reveal you have a magic beaker that separates colors.



Say "red" out loud and pour some indicator into the cup with the citric acid solution. The solution turns red!



Say "blue" out loud and pour some indicator into the cup with the sodium bicarbonate solution. The solution turns blue!



Now, tell the audience you can change the liquid back to purple. Pour the red and blue cups into the empty plastic cup at the same time. The liquid changes back to purple with a fizzy reaction!

The final step produces a big bubbling reaction! You may want to do it over a plate or baking tray for easy clean up.



Don't throw it away...

Save all your components for future experiments!

Atomic Fizz

DAY
6

DAY
6

From the Kit:

- Citric acid
- Sodium bicarbonate
- Phenol red
- Beaker
- Pipette
- 2 short cups

What to Get:

- Water
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon

Caution: Phenol red can stain clothing, skin and other surfaces. Please handle with care.

What to Do:



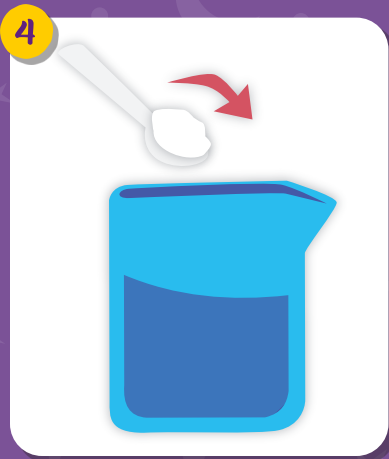
Make a basic solution. Measure 50 mL of water with your beaker and pour it into the first plastic cup. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of sodium bicarbonate into the water and stir until the powder is dissolved.



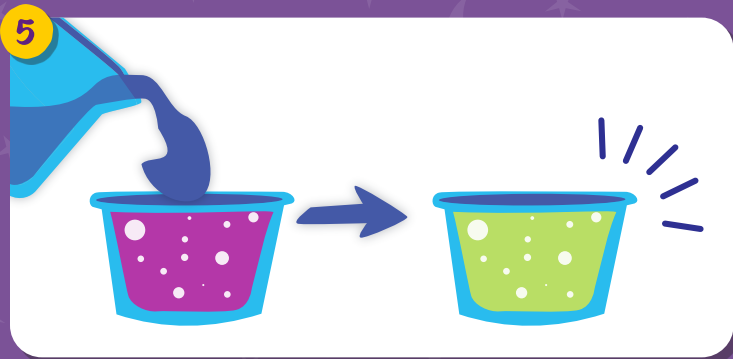
Make a pH indicator solution. Measure 20 mL of water in your beaker. Using your pipette, add 5 drops of phenol red into the water and swirl the beaker until the solution is mixed.



Pour both the basic and indicator solutions into the second plastic cup. The solution turns pink, indicating a high pH level.



4 Make an acidic solution. Wash your beaker with water and dry. Add 20 mL of water to the beaker. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of citric acid to the water and stir until the crystals are dissolved.



5 Now, pour the acidic solution from the beaker into the plastic cup of pink solution. The solution fizzes and changes color from pink to atomic yellow!



Why Did That Happen?

Phenol red is an indicator that turns pink in solutions that are basic (like sodium bicarbonate) and yellow in solutions that are acidic (like citric acid). When sodium bicarbonate and citric acid dissolve in water and meet up, they create a chemical reaction that forms carbon dioxide gas.



Seriously Scientific What's a Chemical Reaction?

In a chemical reaction, molecules crash into each other with enough energy to break the original bonds between atoms and form new bonds, which creates new molecules. The starting materials (the *reactants*) change into (*yield*) new chemical substances (*products*). In this experiment, the reaction created carbon dioxide gas as a product, which made the solution fizz.



Don't throw it away...

Save all your components for future experiments!

Catch Bubbles with Your Hand

DAY
7

DAY
7

From the Kit:

- Clear cup
- Gloves

What to Get:

- Drinking straw
- Water
- Tablespoon
- Dish soap*

**Some serious bubble makers insist Dawn brand dish soap produces the best results.*

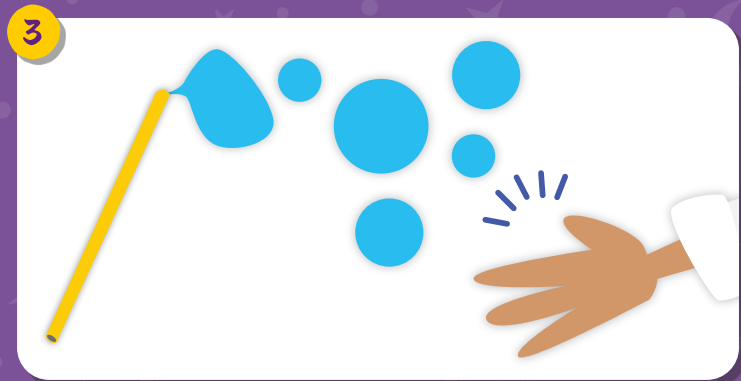
What to Do:



Fill the cup $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water.

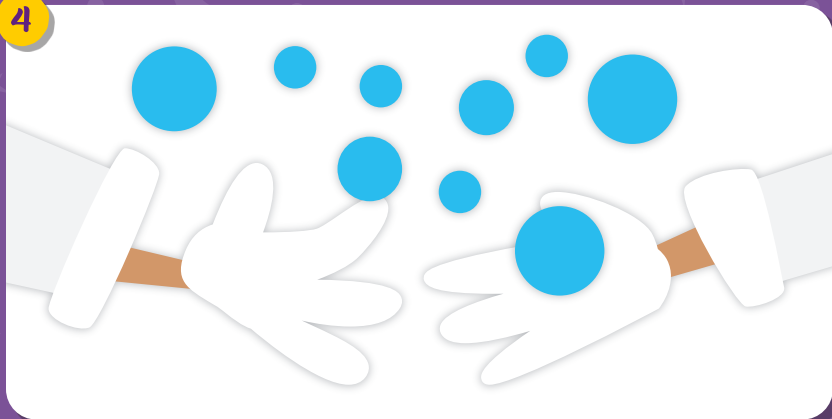


Add two tablespoons (30 mL) of dish soap and mix well.



Dip one end of the magic wand in the solution and then remove it. Slowly blow air through the other end of the wand to blow some bubbles. Try to catch the bubbles with your bare hand. It's hard, isn't it?

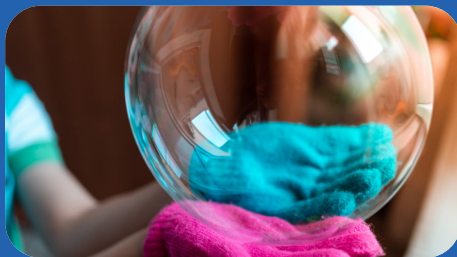
4



Now, put on the gloves and blow some more bubbles. Try to catch them, but this time, let the bubbles gently land in your gloves. Like magic, the bubbles don't pop! Try juggling multiple bubbles or bouncing them around with a friend!

Try This!

Bounce bubbles on your socks, shoes, or even your favorite book. Did it work? See what other surfaces you can bounce bubbles on!



Amazing Facts!

Even if a bubble doesn't touch anything, it will eventually pop because the water will evaporate. Bubbles will last longer on cold, calm wintry days outside because the water won't evaporate as quickly. If it's really, really cold the water can sometimes freeze, and the bubble can last for minutes or more!



Magic Bricks

DAY
8

DAY
8

From the Kit:

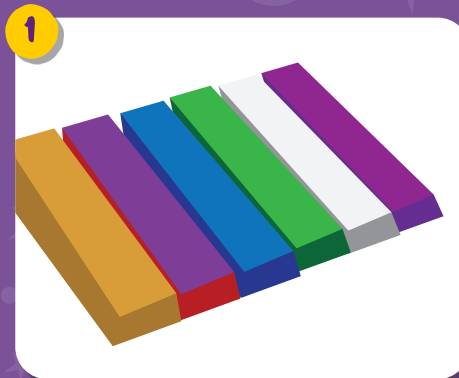
- Magic bricks box

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What to Do:



Lay all six bricks in a neat stack in front of the box and have an audience member choose two colors.



Hold the open box with the outside of the lid facing the audience so they're unable to see inside. Pick up two colors that were not chosen, then place them back in the box vertically at one end.

3



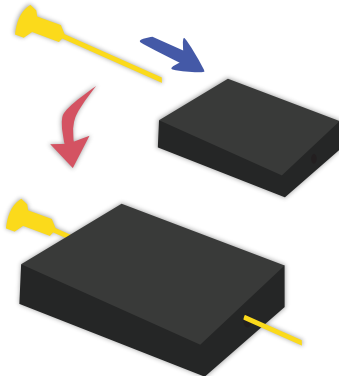
Pick up the two colors that were chosen, holding them in the same way as the bricks in Step 2, and as you place them in the box turn them so that they sit next to one another horizontally in the center of the box.

4



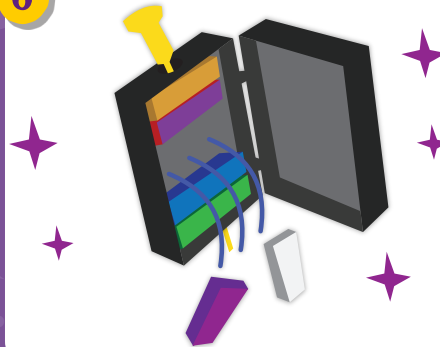
Pick up the final two colors that were not chosen, then place them back in the box vertically on the opposite end.

5



Close the box lid, then slide the rod all the way through the box. This will hold the blocks that were not chosen firmly in place but allow the blocks that were chosen to fall.

6



Open the lid and tip the box toward yourself so the two blocks that the audience member selected magically fall to the table!

Spectacular Coin Breakout

DAY
9

DAY
9

From the Kit:

- Handkerchief
- Magic wand
- Crystal coin case with plastic coin

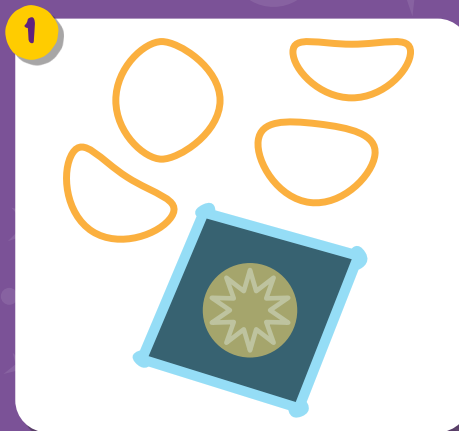
Note: You can use a real quarter or dime in place of the plastic coin if you prefer.

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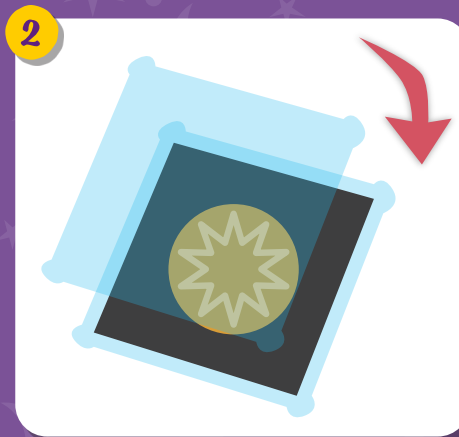


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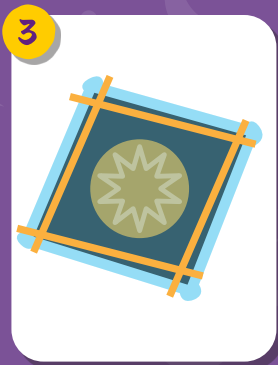
What to Do:



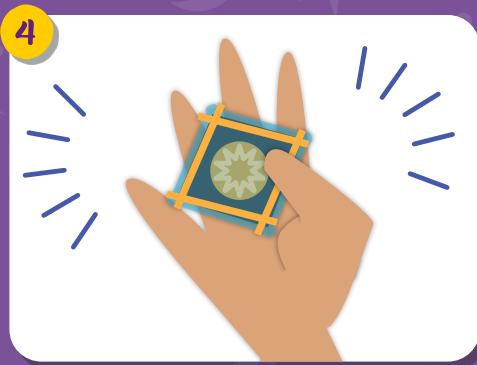
Remove the four rubber bands from the crystal coin case.



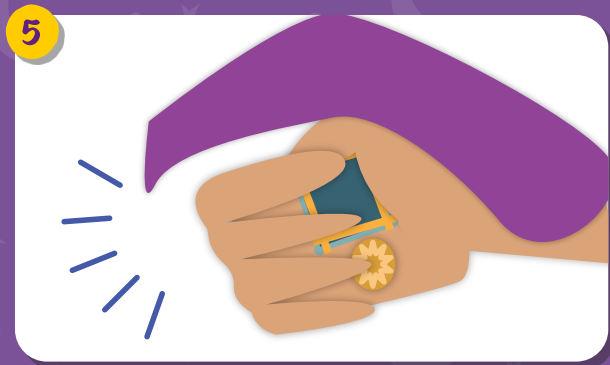
Take one clear panel of the crystal coin case into your hand and lay the black insert on top of the clear panel. Place the plastic coin in the center of the black insert then lay the second clear panel on top of the black insert and plastic coin.



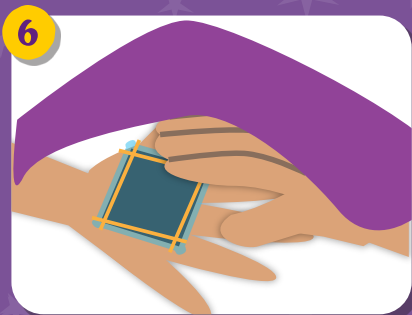
3 Reassemble the crystal coin case by placing the rubber bands around the four sides of the case.



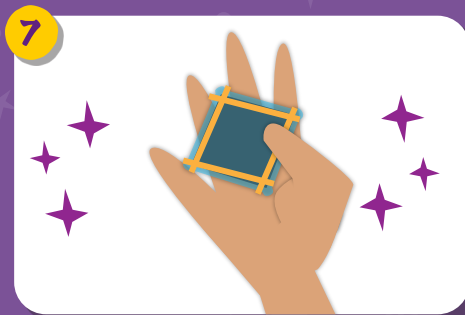
4 Show the audience that the coin can't escape, showing each side of the case to the audience and giving it a shake to clearly show the coin is trapped.



5 Hold the coin case in the palm of your right hand and cover the case with the handkerchief. As you cover the case, squeeze both sides of the crystal coin case so the plastic coin drops down and into your right hand. Make a light, natural fist to palm the plastic coin so the audience doesn't see where the coin is.



6 Transfer the coin case to your left hand, keeping covered by the handkerchief.



7 Pick up your magic wand with your right hand while still holding the plastic coin. Tap the crystal coin case with the magic wand, then place your wand down and reach under the handkerchief to pull out the coin case. It will be empty and your audience will be amazed!

Behind the Back

DAY
10

DAY
10

From the Kit:

• Magician's deck

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Before Your Performance

Make sure that the narrower ends of the cards are all facing in the same direction.

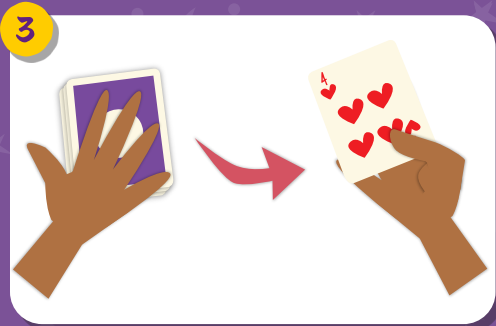
What to Do:



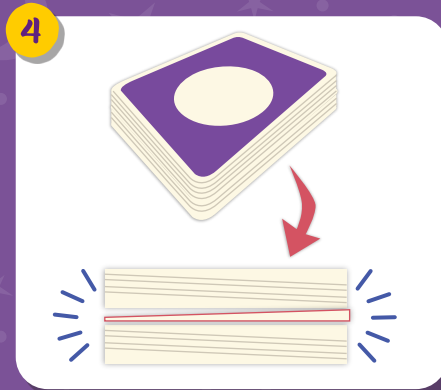
Select an audience member and fan out the cards, face down. Ask them to select one card and have them touch it with their finger.



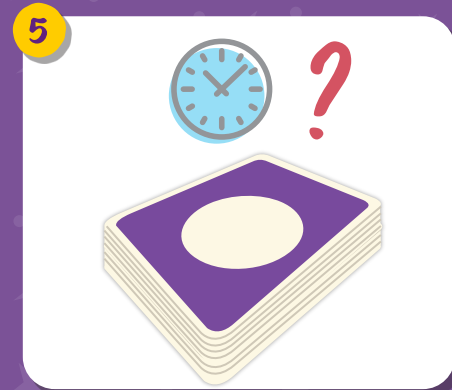
Keeping the deck face-down, pull the selected card out slightly from the fanned deck, then bring the deck back together in a stack so the selected card is sticking out slightly.



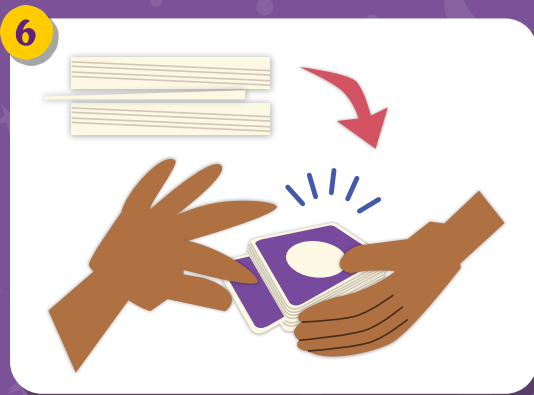
Hold the deck in one hand and with the other, pull the selected card from the deck, rotating it clockwise 180 degrees so the audience member can see the number and suit of card they selected, and you cannot. Have them memorize that card.



Slide the card back into the deck completely. **Note:** Now the narrower end of the card should be opposite to the narrower ends of the other cards in the deck.



Ask the audience member to guess how much time it will take for you to find the card behind your back.



As they answer, move the deck behind your back with one hand, and with the other hand feel for the slight protrusion of the card on each side of the stack. Gently remove that single card as the audience member answers.



Bring both hands back to the front and show the audience member the card you pulled from the deck. They'll be amazed!

Mysterious Coin Case

DAY
11

DAY
11

From the Kit:

- Plastic Coin
- Coin Case

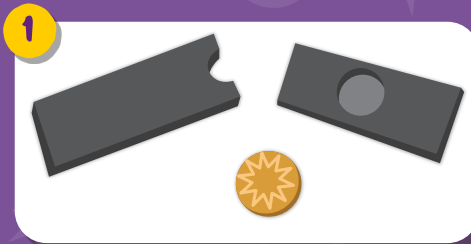
Note: You can use a real quarter or dime in place of the plastic coin if you prefer.

Follow the QR code or web address for instructional videos of the magic tricks:

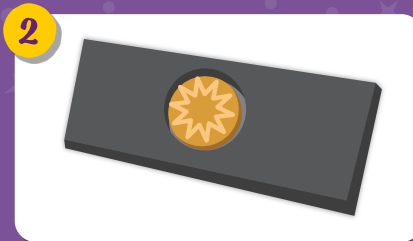


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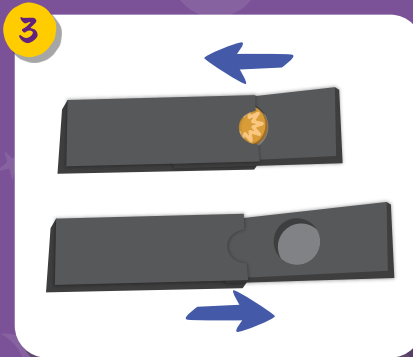
What to Do:



Remove the coin tray from the coin case and tell your audience that you are going to make the coin magically disappear.

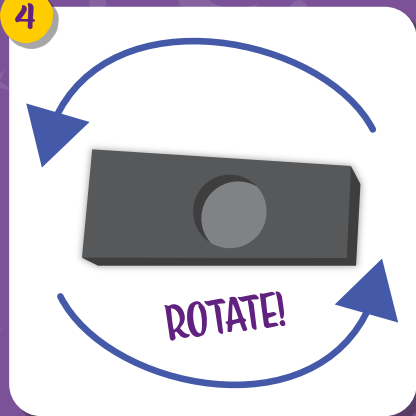


Place the coin into the round space in the middle of the coin case tray.



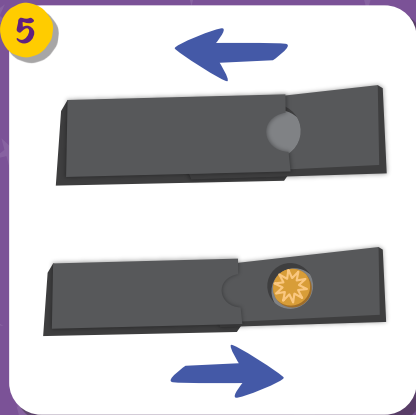
Insert the tray back into the coin case. As you insert it, a rod inside the coin case will push the coin so that it seems to disappear. (You'll know that the coin has simply been pushed into a secret compartment inside the coin case tray.) Show your audience that you've made the coin vanish.

4



To make the coin reappear, remove the coin case tray and rotate it so you can insert it back into the coin case with the opposite side going in first. Be sure to keep the round space in the middle of the tray facing up.

5



Reinsert the coin case tray. When you do, the rod inside the coin case will push the coin back into its original position. When you remove the tray, you can show your audience that the coin has magically reappeared in the center space of the tray!



The Science of Magic

Every magician's success depends on "sleight of hand"—that is, the ability to deceive the audience by using one's hands to hide objects or misdirect the viewer's gaze. The term is related to the idea of being sly or deceitful. But actually, the magician is just taking advantage of how the human brain works.

Scientists who study the brain are collaborating with magicians like Teller, from the famous duo Penn & Teller, to explore the abilities and limitations of human perception. The world is just too big and complex for the brain to process every single bit of information that your eyes perceive. Instead, the brain constructs "reality" by making guesses about what things *should* look like—and sometimes those guesses are wrong!



DAY
12

Vanishing Handkerchief

DAY
12

From the Kit:

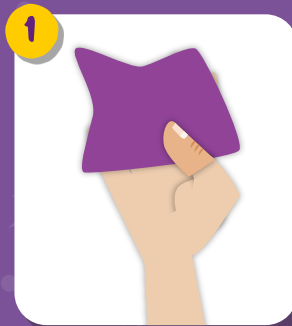
- Thumb tip
- Handkerchief

Follow the QR code or web address for instructional videos of the magic tricks:

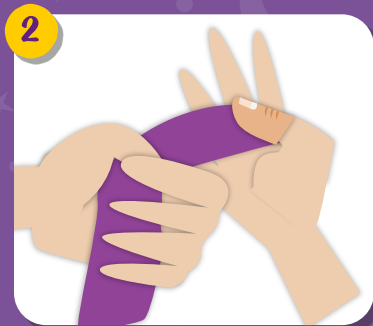


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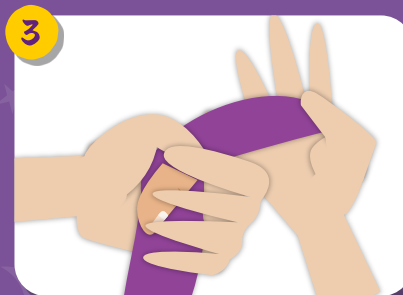
What to Do:



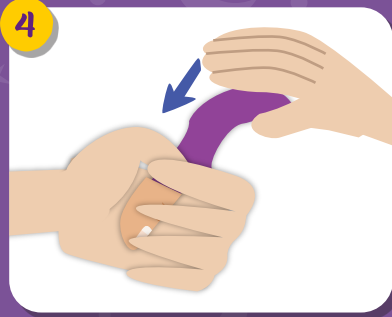
Place the thumb tip on your right-hand thumb and hold the handkerchief in your right hand, ensuring the thumb tip is hidden from the audience behind the handkerchief.



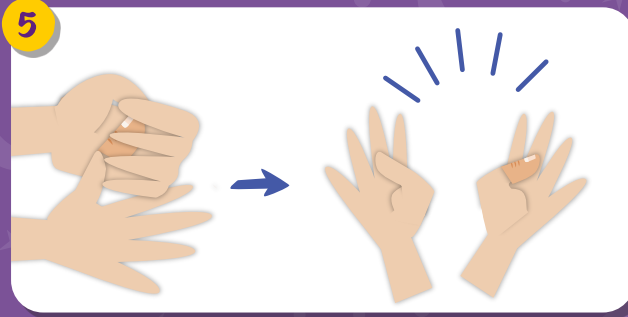
Make a lightly closed fist with your left hand and drag the handkerchief through, toward the audience, pulling it outward between your left-hand thumb and index finger. Ensure the thumb tip stays hidden behind the handkerchief.



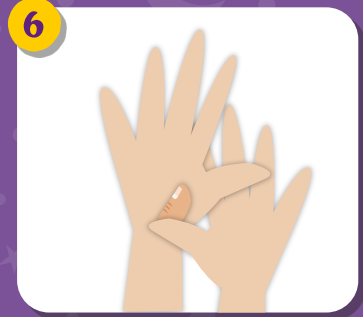
Drag the handkerchief through your left hand a second time, but this time you will hold the thumb tip in place in your left palm and continue to pull the handkerchief through. Keep your left hand closed in a light fist to keep the thumb tip concealed from the audience.



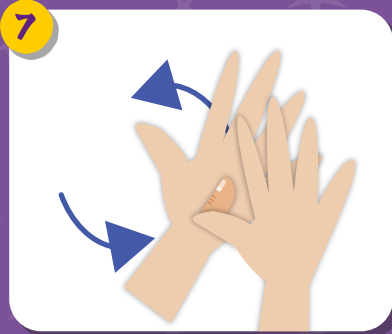
4 Take the handkerchief and stuff it into the thumb tip in your left hand, keeping the thumb tip concealed so the audience believes you're merely stuffing the handkerchief into your left hand.



5 Once the handkerchief is entirely inside the thumb tip, insert your right thumb back inside the thumb tip and show the audience that both your hands are empty, and that the handkerchief has disappeared. Ensure you keep both your thumbs pointed directly at the audience so they can't distinguish the thumb tip on your right hand from your real thumb on your left hand.



6 Show the audience your open left palm and bring your right hand over, resting the thumb tip on the back of your left hand and tapping your open left palm with your right index finger.



7 Slowly rotate your left hand around so that the thumb tip on your right hand is resting inside your left hand, concealed from the audience.



8 Close your left hand into a light fist, removing the thumb tip in the process. You can then proceed to pull the handkerchief from inside your left hand and make it magically reappear! Note: You'll want to reinsert your right-hand thumb into the thumb tip after you pull the handkerchief out so the audience doesn't see how you performed the illusion.

DAY
13

Reveal a Secret Message

DAY
13

From the Kit:

- Citric acid
- 1 piece of pH paper
- Colorless crayon
- Spray bottle

What to Get:

- Warm water
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon

What to Do:



Write your name or a secret message on the pH paper with the crayon. **Tip:** It helps to write firmly with the crayon so it will display clearly when revealed.



Pour $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon of citric acid into the spray bottle. Fill the bottle about $\frac{3}{4}$ full of warm water. Replace the cap and shake the bottle until the citric acid is dissolved.



Hold the pH paper about 6 inches (15 cm) from the bottle, spray where your message is written, and the pH paper will turn red, revealing your hidden message!



Why Did That Happen?

The pH paper is an *indicator* that visually shows the pH value of a liquid. When a liquid's pH value is acidic, the paper will turn a red color. When a liquid's pH value is alkaline, the paper turns blue!



Amazing Facts!

There are many strong acids and bases in nature that serve important functions. For example, some insects and animals will use acids and bases as dangerous poisons.



Hide a Secret Message

From the Kit:

- Sodium bicarbonate
- Plastic cup
- Sponge

What to Get:

- Water
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon
- pH paper from previous experiment

What to Do:



Use the pH paper with the message you revealed earlier.
Tip: For best results, let the paper dry thoroughly before hiding your message.



Fill the plastic cup half full of water. Add $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon of sodium bicarbonate and stir well until the sodium bicarbonate is completely dissolved.



Dip the sponge in the solution, then dab it across your message. The pH paper will turn from red back to yellow as you neutralize the acid with the base solution. If you continue to dab the yellow parts of the paper, it will eventually turn blue!



Why Did That Happen?

Acids and bases can be used to neutralize one another. When you made the pH paper red, you used an *acidic* solution and lowered the pH level. But by using a small amount of a *basic* solution (like you did with the sodium bicarbonate) you

raised the pH level of the paper back toward neutral. If you add too much base, though, the paper will turn blue!



DAY
14

Magic Coin

DAY
14

From the Kit:

- Coin paddle
- Plastic coin

What to Get:

- Double-sided tape

Note: You can use a real quarter or dime in place of the plastic coin if you prefer.

Follow the QR code or web address for instructional videos of the magic tricks:

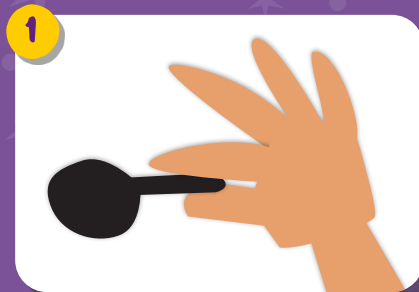


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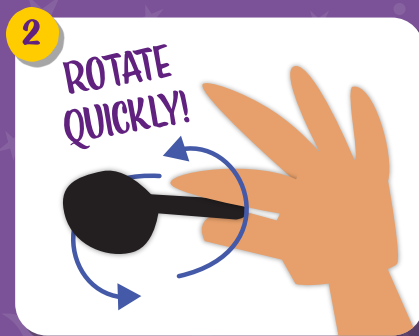
Before Your Performance

Put your piece of double-sided tape in the center of one side of your coin paddle. Press your plastic coin or quarter into the center of the paddle with the double-sided tape. Make sure the coin is securely taped to the coin paddle so that it doesn't fall out when you turn the paddle over.

What to Do:



Hold the paddle between your thumb and forefinger in your right hand, coin side down.



Practice rotating the paddle between your thumb and forefinger while you raise the paddle up to show the "underside" of the paddle. With practice, you'll be able to raise the paddle and rotate fast enough so that it appears as if both sides are empty.

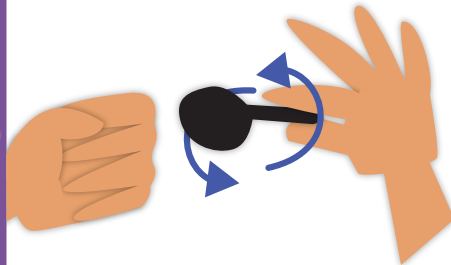
3

SNAP!



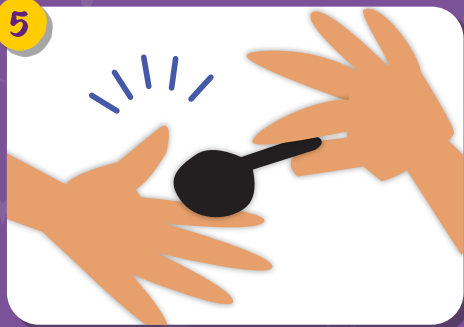
To make the coin magically appear, snap the fingers of your left hand over the top of the paddle while quickly rotating the paddle between your thumb and forefinger so the coin is facing up. You'll need to be very quick with the rotation to fool your audience!

4



You can mimic tossing the coin into your hand by flipping the paddle upward toward your left palm, then closing your palm to make it look like you're holding the coin. Use the paddle rotation skill you learned in previous steps to quickly flip the paddle so it looks like the coin really has been transferred to your left hand.

5



You can then wave the seemingly empty paddle over your left hand, then slowly open your hand to make it appear as if the coin has disappeared from your left hand.

6



To close out the trick, snap your fingers over the empty paddle like you did in Step 3 and quickly rotate so the coin is facing upward. With your left hand, make it appear as if you're grabbing the coin from the paddle, rotating the paddle so the empty side is up as you grab hold of the coin. You can then wave the paddle over your left hand as you did in Step 5, opening your hand to show that it too is empty. Show the audience that both sides of the coin paddle are empty too, as you did in Step 2, and the audience will believe that the coin is completely gone!

Two Card Monte

DAY
15

DAY
15

From the Kit:

- Double-sided card
- Double-backed card

Follow the QR code
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Before Your Performance

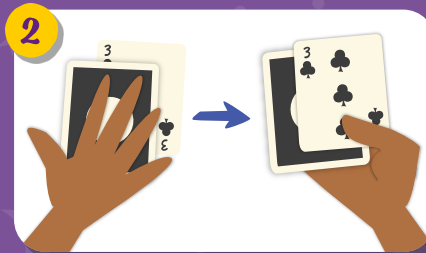
Practice before your performance so your movements are smooth and you'll be able to fool the audience!

- Practice sliding the two cards in one hand with your fingers and thumb so that they switch places, left to right.
- Practice quickly turning your hand over while sliding the cards in one direction, then turning your hand back around and sliding the cards back in the other direction.

What to Do:



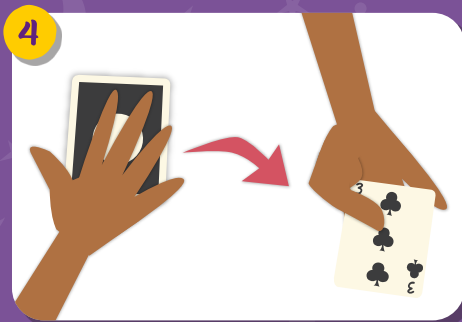
Hold the two cards so the audience can only see one side of the double-backed card and a corner of one side of the double-sided card underneath.



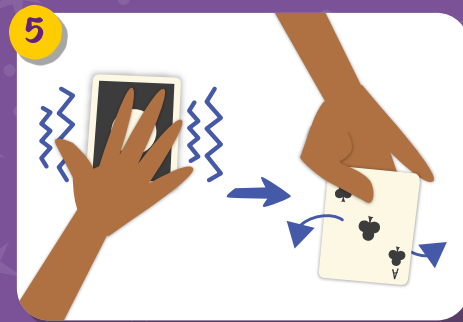
Using the technique you practiced before, quickly rotate your hand back and forth three times so the audience thinks you have two normal cards in your hand.



Tell the audience you're going to magically switch the cards.



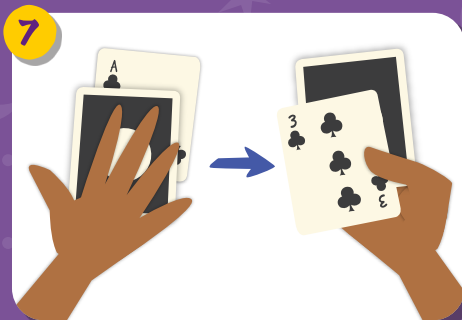
Take the double-sided card and move it behind your back, keeping the double-backed card visible to the audience.



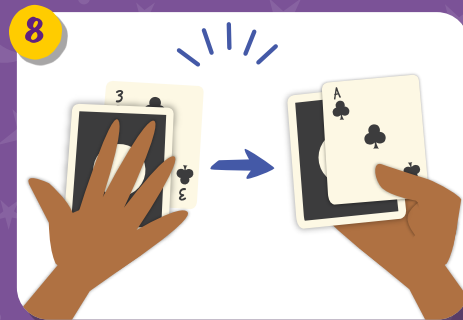
Give the double-backed card a shake while flipping the double-sided card behind your back.



Bring the double-sided card back to the front and slide it into position beneath the double-backed card. Now it looks like you've switched the cards!



Show the audience by using the quick slide/rotation technique two or three times.



You can repeat the process to switch the cards back again by repeating Steps 4 through 7.

Color Vision

DAY
16

DAY
16

From the Kit:

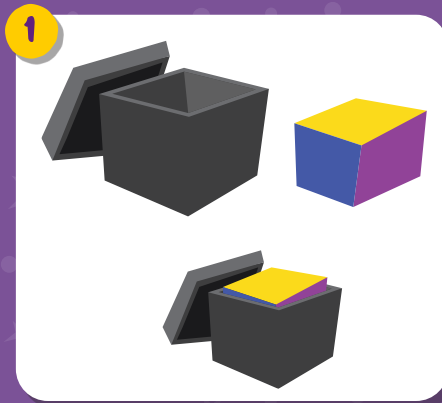
- Color Vision Box and Cube

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of the magic tricks:



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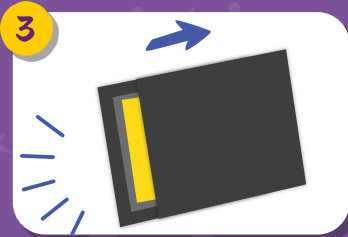
What to Do:



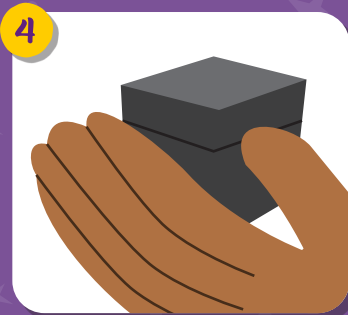
Open the box and place the cube on the table. Ask an audience member to pick up the cube and select any color they'd like and place it back in the box with the color they selected facing up. Turn your back to the audience as they choose.



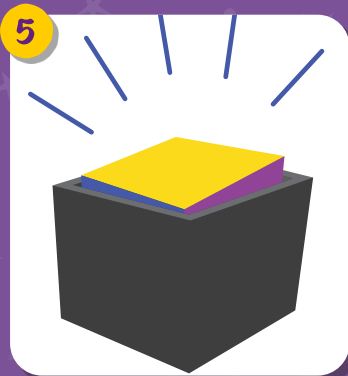
Ensure the audience member places the lid on the box, then have the audience member place the closed box in your hand, behind your back.



As you turn back around to face the audience, discreetly move the lid to the side of the box, so the opening of the box is facing you. You'll be able to see the color the audience member selected, and it will appear to the audience as if the box is still completely closed.



Hold the box up to your head and tell the audience you're attempting to peer inside the box with your mind.



Bring the box back down and declare the color you've seen. Then, pretend to open the box. As you pull the lid quickly rotate the box upward, so it appears as if you've taken the lid off the opening of the box. Your audience will be astounded!



The Science of Magic

Stage magicians frequently bring their tricks to a startling finish by exclaiming a “magic word.” Many of these words have their origins in imitations of Latin or possibly garbled versions of religious ceremonies.

The 2nd century Roman author, Serenus Sammonicus, described how *Abacadabra* could be used as a charm to protect against evil. A person was supposed to write the word on papyrus multiple times, dropping the final letter on each line. As the word got smaller and smaller, the person's bad luck would get smaller too.

ABRACADABRA
ABRACADABR
ABRACADAB
ABRACADA
ABRACAD
ABRACA
ABRAC
ABRA
ABR
AB
A

Hocus pocus was used by jugglers as far back as the 17th century and may be a form of fake Latin, while *alakazam* appeared in the early 20th century as an exotic, foreign-sounding word with possible Arabic roots. Regardless of their origins, such words can give a mystical flavor to any magic trick. What magic words will you use?

DAY
17

Make Magic Snow Appear

DAY
17

From the Kit:

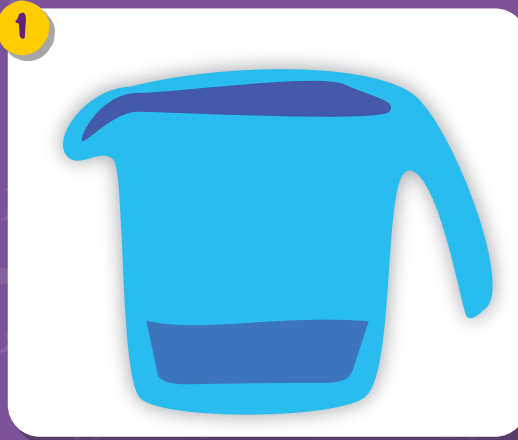
- Instant snow powder (Sodium polyacrylate)

What to Get:

- Water
- Clear cup or bowl
- Teaspoon
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup

What to Do:

1



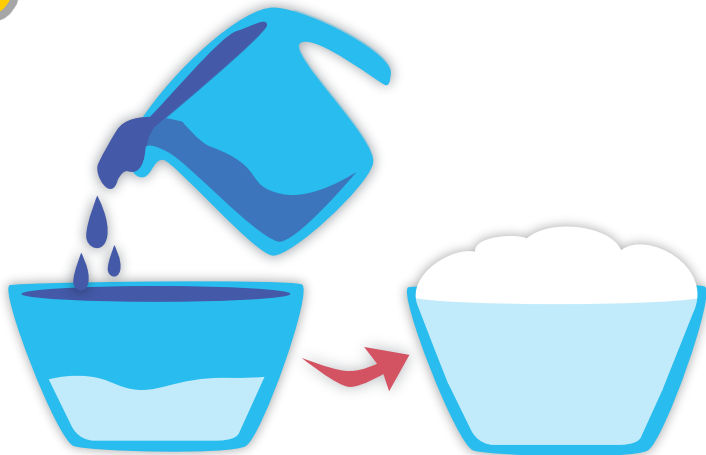
Fill with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water.

2



Add 2 teaspoons of instant snow powder into the clear cup or bowl.

3



Pour the water onto the powder in the clear cup or bowl. Watch as the snow-like substance begins to form and gradually grow!



Why Did That Happen?

Instant snow is made of sodium polyacrylate, a super-absorbent material related to table salt. It's made of *polymers*, long chains of molecules, that can absorb up to 800 times their weight in water.



Amazing Facts!

Sodium polyacrylate is used in things like diapers, surgical sponges, and detergents to absorb water and help keep things clean.



Don't throw it away...

Save all your components for future experiments!

Disappearing Water

DAY
18

DAY
18

From the Kit:

- 3 paper cups

What to Get:

- Water
- $\frac{1}{8}$ cup
- Teaspoon
- Instant snow powder from previous trick



What to Do:

Before you perform the trick



Add 1 teaspoon of instant snow to one of the paper cups. Remember this cup!



Fill with $\frac{1}{8}$ cup of water.

Now amaze the audience!

3



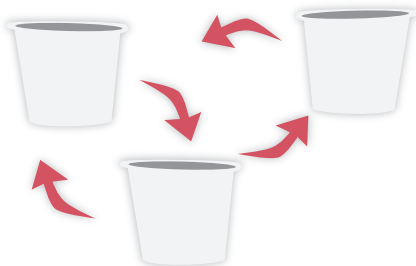
Place all the cups on a table. Show your audience the plastic cup of water and say, "it's regular ol' water" and take a sip to prove it. Now ask your audience to remember which paper cup you pour the water into.

4



Pour the water into the cup with the instant snow.

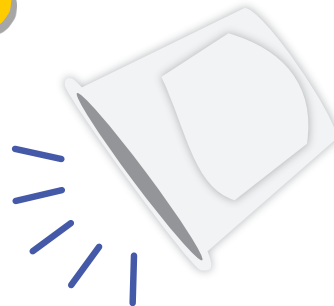
5



(You can do this as a variation of the magic trick!)

Move the cups around for about 10 seconds, letting the powder to soak up the water and solidify. **Note:** Be sure not to wait too long or the water will become snow!

6



Ask your audience which cup has the water in it. Take that cup, turn it upside down and nothing comes out! Now turn over the other cups to show them that there's no water in there either!

Spiked Coin

DAY
19

DAY
19

From the Kit:

- Spiked coin case
- Plastic coin

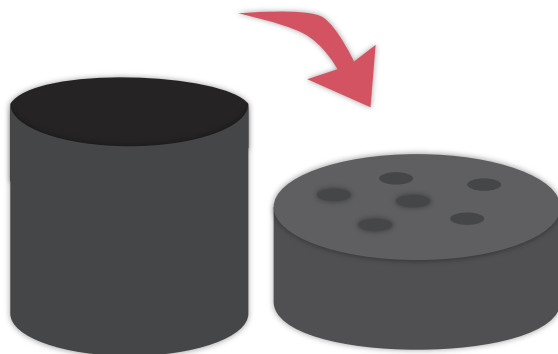
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What to Do:

1



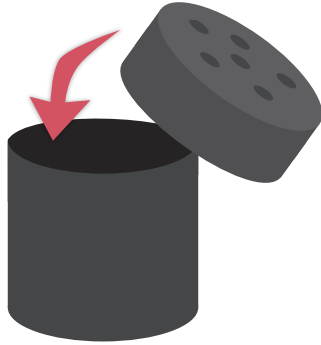
Remove the spikes and open the spiked coin case.

2



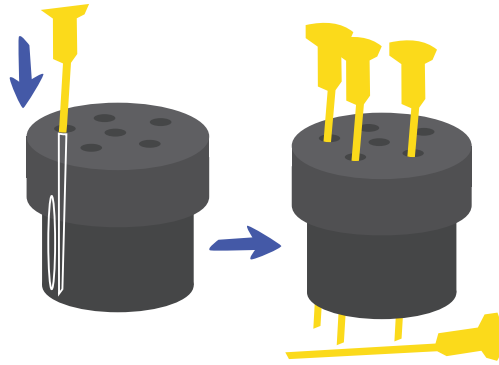
Place the coin inside the bottom half of the coin case. Show your audience that the coin covers the entire inside area of the coin case.

3



Reattach the top of the spiked coin case.

4



Insert one of the spikes along the side. As you insert the first spike, it will lift the coin inside the case so that it's resting on its edge. This will allow you to insert the remaining spikes.

5



Begin removing each of the spikes. Once they're all removed the coin will lay back down flat on the bottom of the coin case, so when you open the coin case to show the audience it will appear as if the coin was resting on the bottom the entire time!

DAY
20

Make Coins Float on Water Then Make Them Sink!

DAY
20

From the Kit:

- Copper coins



What to Get:

- Water
- Dish soap
- Paperclip
- Clear glass or bowl

What to Do:

1



Fill the clear glass or bowl $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water.

2



Drop one of your copper coins into the water to show your audience it is made of real metal and will sink to the bottom of the glass or bowl.

3



Now, unfold your paperclip to create a cradle for the coin like you see in the image to the left.

4



Place a coin on the paperclip and slowly lower it on to the surface of the water. Make sure the coin is level with the water. If you've been careful, as you drop the paperclip below the surface of the water, you'll see that the coin floats!

5



Once you get the coins to float on the water, you can make them instantly sink by breaking the surface tension! Do this by putting some dish soap on your fingertip and touching the water.



Why Did That Happen?

Water molecules want to stick together and are pulled in equal directions by all the water molecules surrounding them. But the molecules on the surface are only pulled down and to the side since there's nothing but air above. Just like a tug-of-war when one side is stronger than the other, the effect is to pull those surface molecules inward and move them closer together, forming a tight surface. If the connections between molecules at the surface aren't broken, water can support objects that would otherwise sink!

Incredible Insects!

The surface tension of water makes it possible for insects to walk on water. Water striders have a hydrophobic quality, with legs that are coated in a layer of waxy hairs, making them water repellent.



Square Bubble

DAY
21

DAY
21

From the Kit:

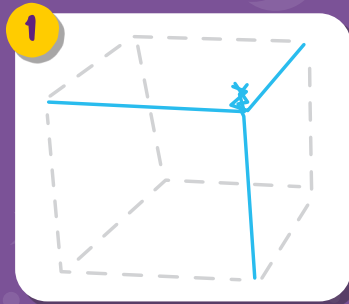
- 12 pipe cleaners

What to Get:

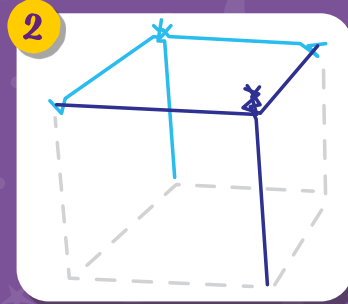
- Water
- Dish soap
- Large bowl

Note: Adding a little bit of corn syrup or glycerin will make the bubble stronger!

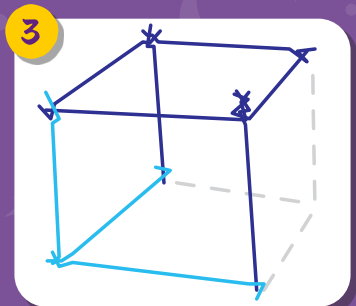
What to Do:



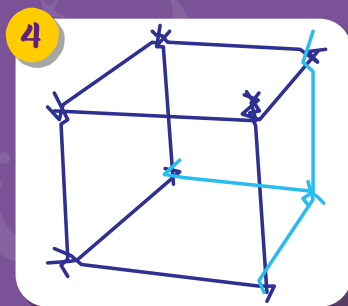
Twist the ends of three pipe cleaners together. Spread the pipe cleaners to make your first corner piece. Repeat three more times until you have four corner pieces.



Attach two corner pieces to make a square.

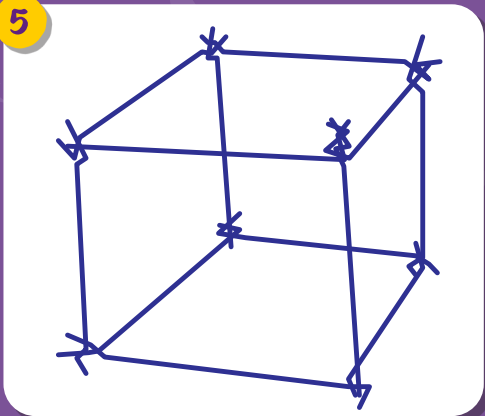


Attach a third corner piece.



Attach your final corner piece to complete your cube.

5



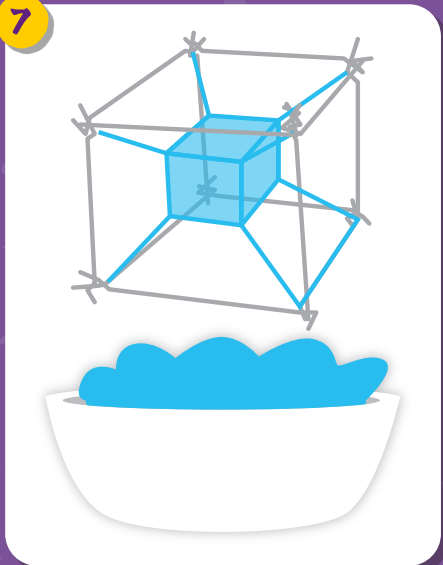
Make sure all edges are as straight as possible and that the ends of the pipe cleaners point outward.

6



Pour some dish soap into the bowl of water and mix to create a bubble solution.

7



Dip the frame into the bubble solution, making sure each side of the cube gets covered with soap. Pull it out of the bubble solution slowly and if you can get it right a square bubble will appear in the middle!

Note: If you're having trouble getting the square bubble to appear, remove any excess bubbles from the solution, then try again. Also, experiment with different amounts of dish soap to see if the results change!

Try This!
 Use the magic wand to blow a bubble and drop it into the center of the cube. Be careful not to hit the square bubble with the wand.
 • You can cut the pipe cleaners in half to make a smaller bubble, but be careful of the sharp points that are left after you cut!

DAY
22

Puzzling Boomerangs

DAY
22

From the Kit:

- Black boomerang
- Purple boomerang

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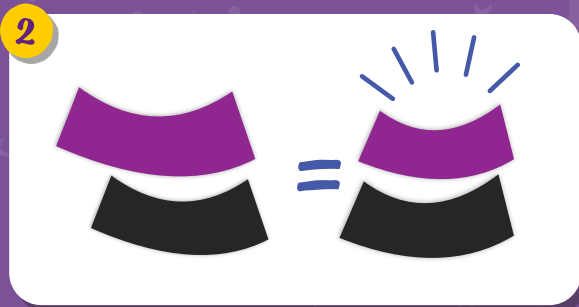
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What to Do:

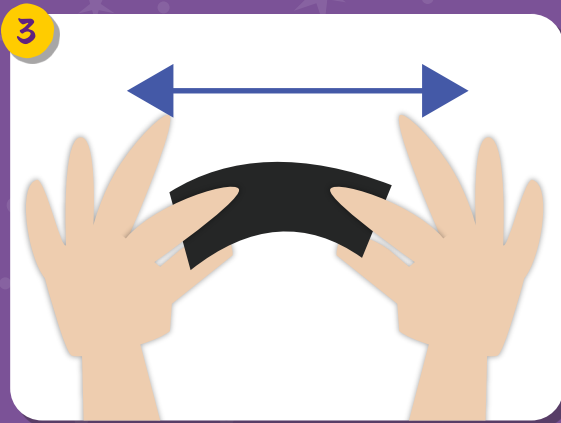
1



Place both boomerangs, face up, on the table. Make sure that the edges of the boomerangs on your right-hand side are lined up. That way the boomerang closest to the audience looks longer than the one closest to you.



Explain to the audience that the boomerang closest to them looks a lot longer than the one closest to you and that you want to try to make them the same size.



Pick up the boomerang closest to you, then pretend to give it a little stretch.



Place the boomerang on the side closest to the audience, ensuring the edges on your right-hand side are perfectly aligned. Now it looks like the boomerang you just stretched is longer than the one that was left on the table!



Repeat Steps 3 and 4 a few times to really stun your audience with this optical illusion!

DAY
23

Coin Puzzle Card

DAY
24

From the Kit:

- Coin Puzzle Card

What to Get:

- 1 Quarter
- 1 Dime
- 1 Penny
- 1 Nickel

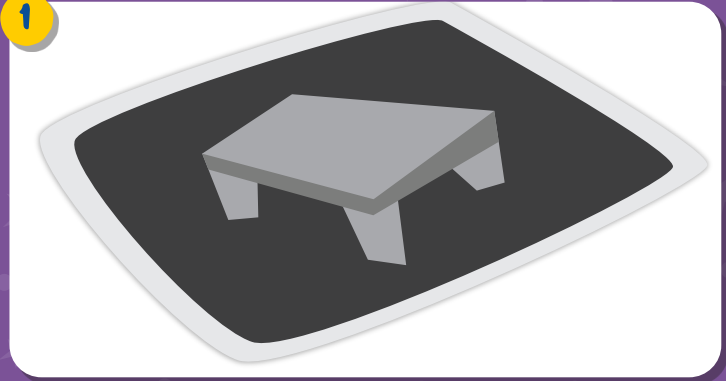
Follow the QR code
or web address for
instructional videos
of the magic tricks:



www.thinkbluemarble.com/advent-magic

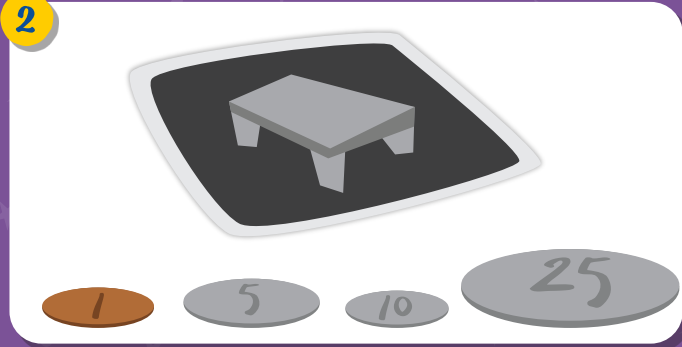
What to Do:

1



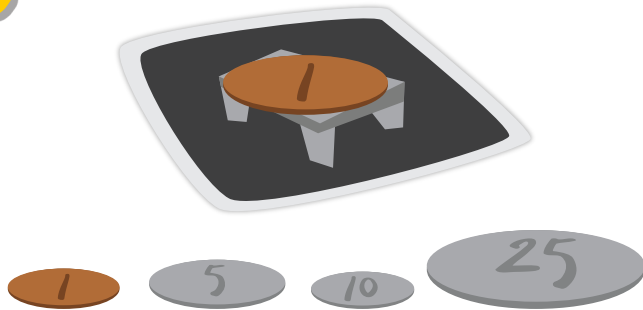
Place your coin puzzle card with the tabletop image facing up.

2



Place your four coins, evenly spaced, on the tabletop in front of the coin puzzle card.

3



Ask the audience which coin they think will fit into the space on the tabletop image of the coin puzzle card. Place the coin they've chosen in the round space on the card, and they'll find that it doesn't quite fit!

4



Repeat with the remaining three coins. Each time, the audience will see that no matter how much it appears as if the coin should fit, it doesn't!

BONUS!

See the video
trick tutorials
"NO" Card and
3 1/2 Clubs Card
by visiting:



www.thinkbluemarble.com/advent-magic



DAY
24

Dice Tube

DAY
24

From the Kit:

- Dice tubes

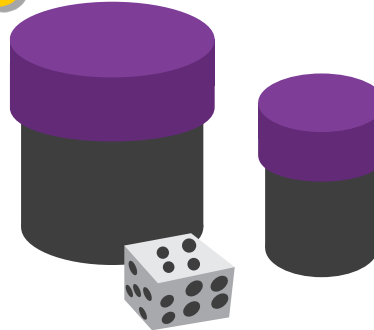
Follow the QR code
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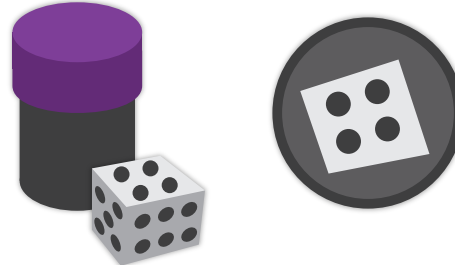
What to Do:

1

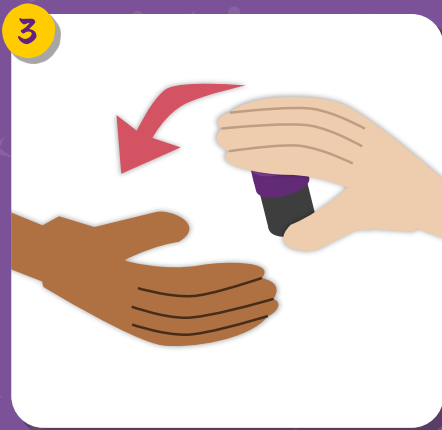


Remove the inner die tube from the larger die tube and remove the die inside.

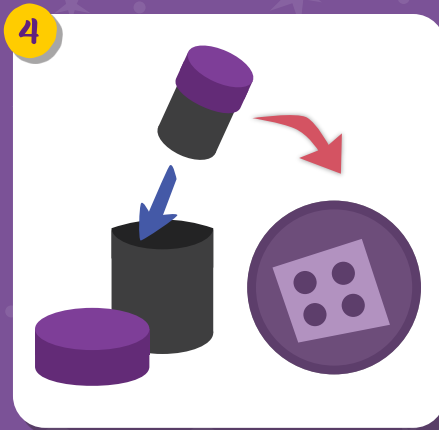
2



Have an audience member select a number on the die, without showing or telling you. Have the audience member then place it into the inner die tube with the number they selected facing up.



Have the audience member place the lid back on the inner die tube and hand it back to you.



Proceed to place the inner die tube inside the larger, outer die tube. As you move to place the inner tube inside, tip the inner die tube toward you so the die slides to the lid. You'll be able to see the number that's facing up through the thin material of the lid just before you place it in the larger, outer die tube.



Seal the outer die tube then hold it up to your head and tell the audience that you're attempting to read the mind of the audience member who placed the die inside.



After a bit, pretend as if the number has magically come to you and call it out. Then, open the die tubes so the audience can see which number is facing up. They'll see it's the same number you called out!

The image shows an open notebook with two blank, lined pages. The pages are white with horizontal ruling lines. The notebook is set against a dark purple background decorated with stars and crescent moons. The pages are empty, with no text or drawings.



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