Paper Propeller
Investigation #2

Description
Fasten your seat belt! Are you ready for take-off?

Materials
• Tissue paper
• Scissors
• Ruler

Procedure
1) Cut a piece of tissue paper 2 inches long by 4 inches wide.
2) Make a $\frac{1}{4}$-inch-long crease parallel to the length of each edge so that each edge lifts on a slight angle.
3) Be sure the top and right crease bend slightly more upward than the other two.
4) Hold out the index finger on your right hand. Place the center of the paper against your index finger with your left hand.
5) Begin to rotate in place and remove your left hand.
6) What do you notice?

Results
Explanation
The paper will begin to rotate like a propeller and look as though it is attached to your finger. Because the tissue paper is so light, air pressure pushes the tissue paper against your finger as you turn. Meanwhile, air runs across the surface of the paper. Because the surface is bent, air particles deflect off in different directions, push against the blade, and get the propeller spinning.

What makes you wonder? The use of magic has been around for hundreds of years as a form of entertainment. Whether a magician makes things float, disappear, or change into something new, the audience observes things that seem impossible. Amazingly, many of these magical phenomena can be explained with science and even make us think scientifically. When you see someone make an object disappear, you start asking questions. How does that work? Can I figure out how to explain that? So, let’s look at some other tricks, think of wonderings, and try to explain them with science!

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