



## Curiosity Guide #710

### Magical Science

Accompanies Curious Crew, Season 7, Episode 10 (#710)

#### Levitating Bill

Investigation #5

#### Description

Look, Ma, no hands!

#### Materials

- Black nylon stockings
- Scissors
- Putty
- White foamboard
- Dollar bill or tissue paper
- Table
- Lamp or taller object
- A friend

#### Procedure

- 1) Pierce a run in the end of the nylon and slowly separate a single strand of the elastic.
- 2) Turn the nylon upright and slowly pull the elastic while sliding the nylon down toward the toe, being careful not to break the strand. You may need to extract a few strands at first and then separate.
- 3) When you have a strand about 6 inches out, ball the end of the string and encase in white putty to make the end easier to see.
- 4) Cut a piece of foamboard 10 inches by 12 inches. Make two notches in the center of the short sides. Start wrapping the string around the

foamboard, using the notches to hold the string in place. This will make the string easier to see and keep track of.

5) Continue to pull out the elastic string until you have about two to three feet in length.

6) Apply a lump of putty to the other end of the elastic string as well.

7) Set up the trick so that the string is affixed to two points, perhaps the end of the table where you'll do the trick, and the top of a lamp sitting on the table.

8) The important idea is to have the string running on an angle.

9) Stand behind the table. Carefully fold the bill so that the bill goes over the invisible string. While still holding the bill, twist the bottom.

10) Keep one finger under the bill to make the bill look like it's balanced on your finger, then remove the finger to levitate the bill.

11) If you can keep track of the location of the string, you can move your hands over and even around the bill and make it look as though there is nothing supporting the dollar.

## Results

## Explanation

Of course, a dollar bill would not be able to defy gravity, so there must be a scientific explanation. Because the elastic string is so fine, the string is very difficult to see, making the bill appear to be floating. Magic often challenges our powers of observation and our common sense.

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