



Curiosity Guide #710

Magical Science

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

Make a Magic Paper Tube

STEM Challenge

Description

Can you make a scarf appear from a flat sheet of paper?

Materials

- 2 thick sheets of paper of the same color
- Scarf
- Tape
- 2-sided tape
- Table
- A friend

Procedure

- 1) Cut a half-inch strip off the long edge of one of the pieces of paper. Discard the small strip.
- 2) Roll the cut piece of paper lengthwise into a tube and tape closed.
- 3) Place the tube 1/3 of the way in from the short edge of the second sheet so the ends are offset by at least $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch. Tape the tube in place.
- 4) Hide a scarf or long strip of fabric in the tube.
- 5) Hold the whole thing under the table.
- 6) Call in a friend. Have your friend face you. Pull out the piece of paper from under the table, with the flat side showing to your friend.
- 7) Roll the flat paper toward you so that the paper begins to roll around the unseen tube at the back.

8) When the tube is formed, reach into the inner tube, and begin to pull out the scarf.

Results

Explanation

To make this work most effectively, the paper that you use should be opaque, or thick enough not to let light pass through. That way, when the original paper is held up, your friend won't be able to see the tube already taped to the back. Tying lengths of fabric or thin scarves together makes the trick even more interesting because there is so much that seems to come from nowhere.

Can you keep just a little secret? Sometimes, tricks are surprising because you are unaware of something in front of you, like the magic tube. In this next trick, set up an empty glass, a clear measuring cup of water, and a clear cup of sugar. Tell your friend that you'll be making lemonade from sugar and water. Pour the water and then the sugar into the glass and stir with a spoon. Behold, lemonade! The trick here is to pour a packet of powdered lemonade in with the dry sugar from the beginning. It is only when the particles combine with water that we notice a color change. Magic often challenges our power of observation!

Parents and Educators: use #CuriousCrew #CuriosityGuide to share what your Curious Crew learned!

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