

Talcott Mountain Science Center

Topic Science & Magic

Home School Science

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Home Links

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Here's some information about the activities your student did with us. Links at the bottom will help you explore further. Enjoy!

What did we do (content, skills, data collection)?

We explored the differences between science & magic - who does it, how to they do it, how do they perform vs investigate, what costumes and tools do they use.

We learned the 4 basic parts of magic (sleight, misdirection, illusion, gimmick) and found their counterparts in science

We learned and practiced examples of sleight and misdirection with "closeup" magic and how those methods can be used to fool people (even scientists)

We learned to use coins and pompoms and magic wands as tools

How did we do it (materials & methods)?

We built our magic kits out of pencils, washers (homework was to find a coin they can easily "palm" in order to do certain tricks), pom-poms.

(We can't reveal the ways the tricks work but your students can practice at home, and they can eventually teach it to you!)

We used video to see different angles of closeup tricks and how best to make a trick convincing - and compared this to observations in science.

Where can we find out more?

Links:

<https://theconversation.com/tricking-the-brain-how-magic-works-56451>

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/magic-and-the-brain/>

<https://www.livescience.com/1138-study-reveals-magic-works.html>