

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 focused on closeup magic, using card tricks, gimmicks, and complex devices.

We learned how we can manipulate items (cards) to create sleights (hidden or fast movements) and how to use psychology to misdirect the attention of spectators.

In the real world, the “trick” is whatever the natural world is presenting and the “spectators” are the scientists trying to figure it all out.

We problem-solved tricks presented with gimmicks (specially-made items) and how these relate to “rube goldberg” devices - complicated machinery with many complex parts.

How did we do it (materials & methods)?

We demonstrated three simple card tricks, each building on the previous one, with more evaluation and analysis needed for each;

We proposed theories and tested them to see how they fared, accepting or rejecting them as we found out more;

We used several purchased or built gimmicks (tricks that have to be made that way) and tested theories about each.

We applied these to videos of complex machines and devices.

Where can we find out more?

Links:

Honda Cog commercial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77F3Gcyr7H4>

Honda CR-V Commercial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_UvpGOW-cc