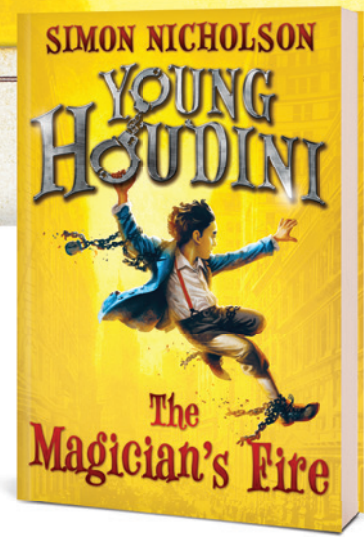




ACTIVITY KIT



HARRY HOUDINI TRUE OR FALSE



Harry Houdini was one of the most famous performers of all time, but what do you know about the man behind the magician? Test your knowledge below!

1. Harry Houdini was born Ehrich Weisz in Appleton, Wisconsin, on March 24, 1874.

TRUE or **FALSE**

2. Harry is an Americanized version of his nickname, Ehrlic.

TRUE or **FALSE**

3. Harry chose "Houdini" for his stage name because the word means "escape."

TRUE or **FALSE**

4. Houdini's first stage performance was a handcuff escape act.

TRUE or **FALSE**

5. In 1893, Harry Houdini married fellow performer Wilhelmina Beatrice Rahner, after knowing her for only a few weeks.

TRUE or **FALSE**

6. Houdini became the first person to man a controlled power flight over Australia in 1910.

TRUE or **FALSE**

7. Houdini's Straitjacket Escape was his most famous act.

TRUE or **FALSE**

8. Harry Houdini died on Halloween.

TRUE or **FALSE**



ACTIVITY KIT The MAGICIAN'S FIRE

HARRY HOUDINI TRUE OR FALSE: *The Answers*



Award whoever gets the most correct answers a prize! We recommend a copy of *The Magician's Fire*, a deck of cards, or a magician's starter kit.

1. **FALSE**

Harry Houdini was born in Budapest, Hungary, and moved to Appleton when he was a child.

2. **TRUE**

Harry Houdini was a very patriotic American, so much so that he'd tell people he was born in Wisconsin.

3. **FALSE**

His last name is a homage to the great French magician, Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin.

4. **FALSE**

Houdini made his first appearance on stage as a trapeze act when he was nine years old.

5. **TRUE**

Beatrice "Bess" Houdini served as his lifelong stage assistant after they were married.

6. **TRUE**

Harry Houdini was a passionate aviator, and bought his first plane in 1909.

7. **FALSE**

Houdini's Chinese Water Torture Cell trick was the hallmark of his career.

8. **TRUE**

Houdini died on October 31, 1926, in Detroit, Michigan.



ACTIVITY KIT The MAGICIAN'S FIRE

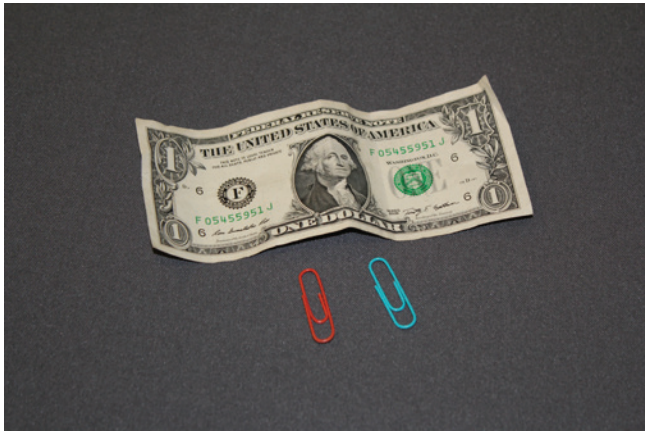
BECOME A MAGICIAN:



Learn these beginner's tricks to dazzle your friends and family!

The Jumping Paper Clip

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: a one dollar bill and two paper clips



STEP 1: Bend the dollar bill so that when you look down at the top of it, you see an "S."



Continued on next page...



ACTIVITY KIT *The* MAGICIAN'S FIRE

The Jumping Paper Clip (Continued)

STEP 2: Attach the first paper clip to the top of the "S" and the fold below it. Attach the second paper clip to the bottom of the "S" and the fold above it (each one should only clip two pieces of the bill).



STEP 3: Slowly pull the ends of the dollar bill, and the paper clips will magically jump off and attach themselves!



For more details on the trick, visit: <http://magic.about.com/od/libraryofsimpletricks/ss/paperclips.htm>



ACTIVITY KIT *The* MAGICIAN'S FIRE

Magic Card Trick

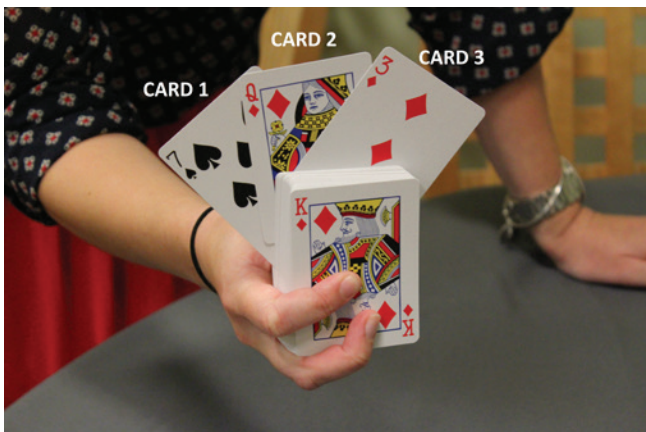
WHAT YOU'LL NEED: one deck of cards

STEP 1: Hold the deck of cards upright, so the card fronts face the spectators.

STEP 2: Slightly pull out the second, third, and fourth cards from the back of the deck and fan them out. Allow the top card to remain in place, and make sure no one knows it's there! (Ex: our secret top card is the 7 of clubs.)



STEP 3: Ask one of the spectators to select a card by pointing at the first, second, or third fanned card. After they've selected card 1, 2, or 3, gather the cards together again. (Ex: say the spectator has selected card 2, the queen of diamonds.)



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ACTIVITY KIT The MAGICIAN'S FIRE

Magic Card Trick (Continued)

STEP 4: Based on the card the spectator selected, pull that number of cards from the top of the deck and place them somewhere in the middle. Be sure to pull the cards one by one, saying the number of each, so that they think you buried their card. (Ex: Since the spectator selected card 2, bury the top card [the secret 7 of clubs], and then bury the next card [the 7 of spades]. If the spectator had selected card 3, you would need to bury the top three cards: the 7 of clubs, the 7 of spades, and the queen of diamonds.)



STEP 5: Because of the secret top card from the beginning of the trick, the card the spectator selected will now be on top of the deck. Say a magic word or tap the deck, and then reveal the card to the audience!



For more details on the trick, visit: <http://magic.about.com/od/libraryofsimpletricks/ss/cardtrick.htm>



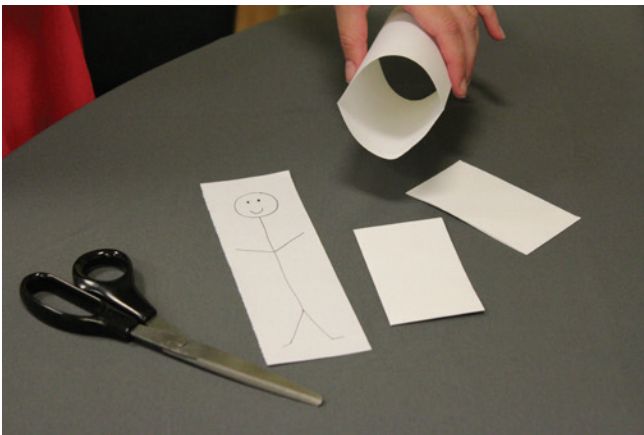
ACTIVITY KIT *The* MAGICIAN'S FIRE

Sawing a (Paper) Person in Half

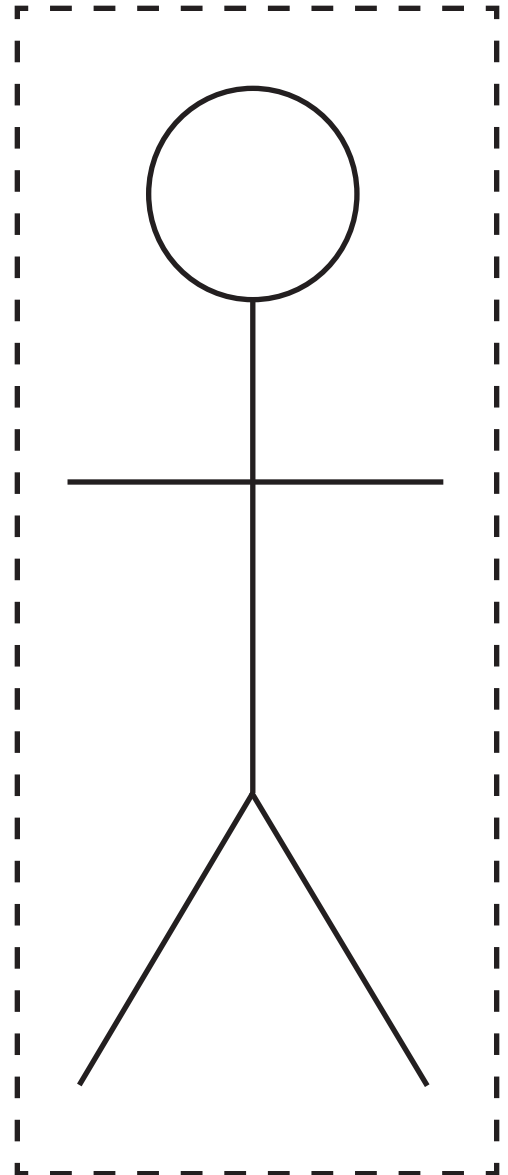
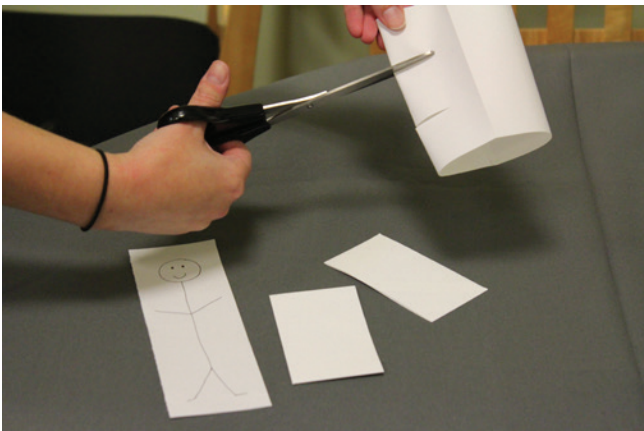
WHAT YOU'LL NEED: one envelope, scissors, paper doll

STEP 1: Print out this page and cut out the paper doll.

STEP 2: Seal the envelope and cut off both ends so that the paper doll's head and feet will stick out.



STEP 3: Cut two slits into the bottom of the envelope tube, separating it into thirds. Make sure the slits are wide enough for the paper doll to slide through.



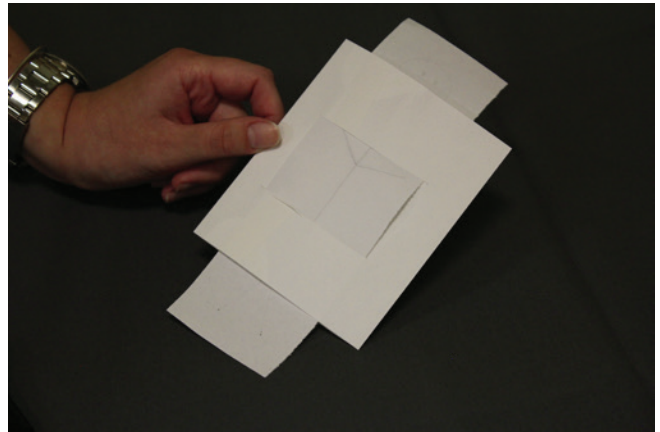
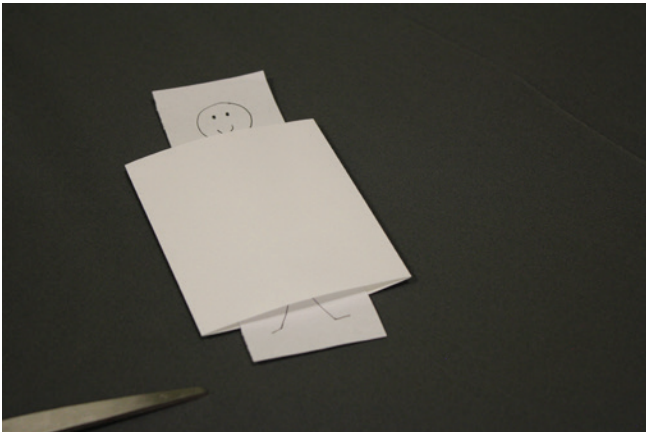
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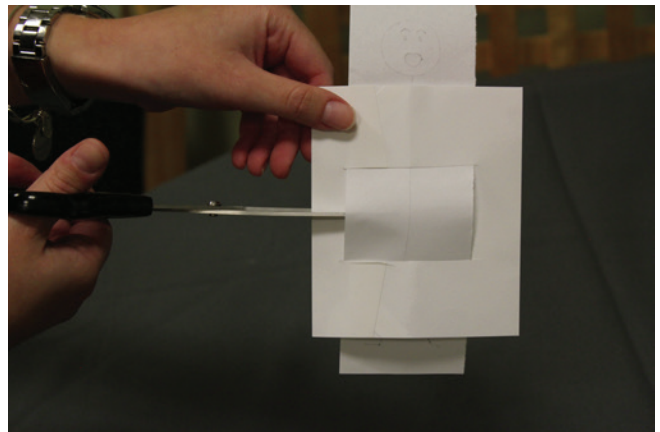
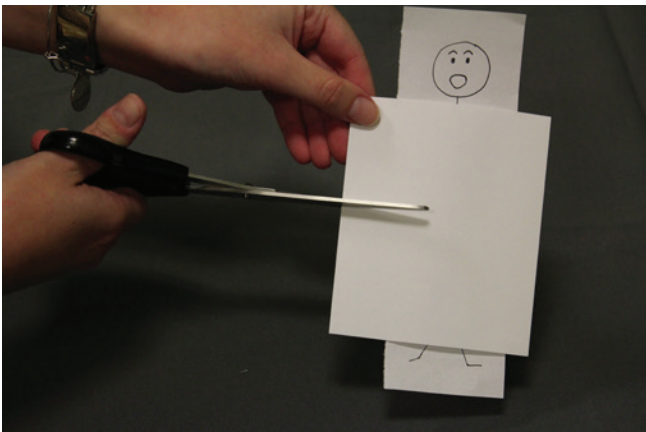
ACTIVITY KIT *The* MAGICIAN'S FIRE

Sawing a (Paper) Person in Half (Continued)

STEP 4: Carefully slide the paper doll into the envelope tube, making sure the doll's feet go through the first slit and out the back. Once you reach the second slit, slip the end of the paper doll back into the tube.



STEP 5: Once the doll is positioned, begin to cut the envelope. Make sure the scissors are cutting under the envelope tube, but above the part of the paper doll sticking out of the back.



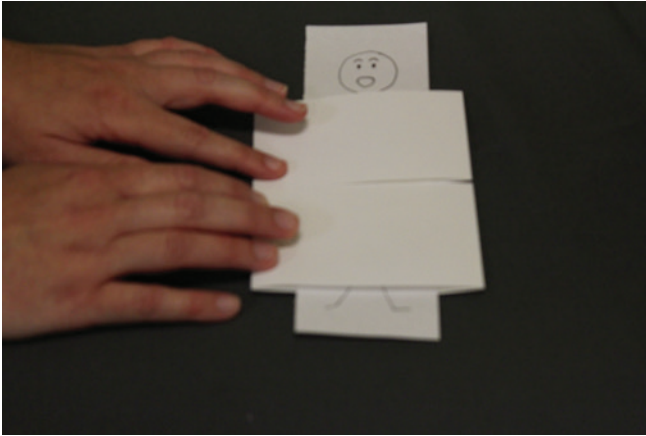
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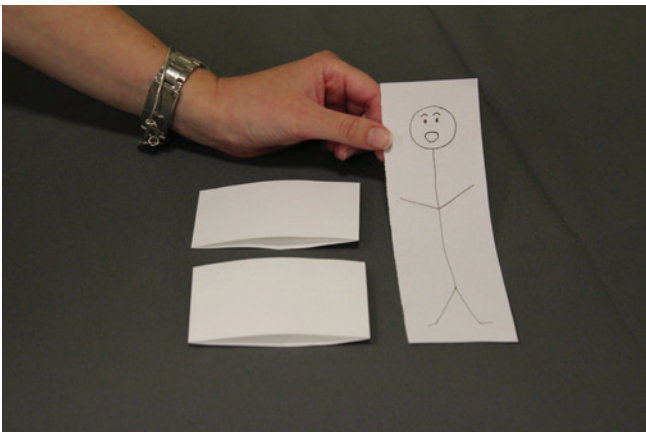
ACTIVITY KIT The MAGICIAN'S FIRE

Sawing a (Paper) Person in Half (Continued)

STEP 6: Once you've finished cutting, hold the envelope together and pull out the whole, uncut paper doll.



STEP 7: Pull apart the two pieces of the envelope to show it's been cut through, but be sure to not show your audience the back where the slits are!



For more details on the trick, visit: <http://magic.about.com/od/libraryofsimpletricks/ss/122406sawing.htm>