

Teacher Guide for ODYSSEY

October 2010: The Magic Half

Teacher's Guide prepared by: Mary B. Lawson, fifth grade teacher at Michigan Avenue Elementary School, Saint Cloud, Florida, Florida Geographic Teacher Consultant, Teach American History Grant Co-Hort, and Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Expert.

INTRODUCTION: Take a survey: Is magic scientific or an illusion? Randomly ask students why they answered that way. After the discussion, ask students what would be the benefits of magic. Have them give to support their answers. Ask the students if any can do any magic tricks. Post survey results and answers with reasons around room. At the end of the lesson redo the introduction. If some students changed their minds, ask what was the reason that caused them to change their first choice.

WHOLE GROUP ASSIGNMENTS: Have students read the following articles:

Mind over Matter p.2-3

Abracadabra, Watch me Disappear: How the Velvet Belly Lantern Shark Turn

Indivisible p.2-3

Contest Winner: Best Illusion of 2010! P.4-5

Black, Oozing, Gushing Disaster! The Oil Has Stopped p. 4-5

Is This Hole for Real? P.5

Eye Tricks/Brain Tricks: They're All Illusions! p.14-15

Magic Math p.21

Martin Garden: Math and Magic A Tribute p.22-23

Levitation: Physics and Psychology in the Service of Deception p.48

A Change-Master p.49

After reading the articles, divide them into groups of 3 or 4 articles. Create a comment chart on each article and place around the room. Divide students into 3 groups. Have them discuss what they read and come up with a statement on each article and write on the appropriate comment chart. Then have each group move to another set of articles and repeat the process until each group has commented on each article. After they are finished, have a whole group discussion on the statements.

SMALL GROUP ASSIGNMENTS: Divide students by letting them pick an article that interests them. (Can limit the number of student to each article.) In their groups have them read and discuss them.

Hand is Quicker than the Brain p.6-9

Magic: It Happens in Your Mind p.10-13

Hey! How'd They Do That? P.18-20

The Magic of Science p.27-29

Ava Do p.30-31

Voices in the Air: Ventriloquism p.33-35

And Now You Are the Magician (I mean Scientist!) p.36-37

Pranks + Chemistry= Magic p.38-39

Making Magic-Heal and Teach p.40-42

For each article have students complete a chart with vocabulary terms and meanings, who/what the article is about, write 3 facts learned in the article and then a summary of the article. Using this chart, have students create a poster to use in a presentation of their article to the rest of the class.

As the presentations are being presented, have students fill in charts with the same information used in their article chart.

Discuss the information learned from the articles with the class. Then have the students write a paper on magic and its relationship to science and/or math.

Extend: Set up several of the magic "tricks" from the readings for students to try.

READ, RELAX, ENJOY...

The Magician and the Spy p. 24-26.

Article Chart:

Name of the Article:				
Vocabulary	Meaning	Who/What About	Facts Learned	Summary