

Examining Magic



The fascination with tricks and illusions is universal and timeless. Before you can examine magic in detail, it is helpful to let children discover the broadness of the topic. As you are introducing magic to the group, brainstorm all the different types of activities that might fall under the category of magic.

Making things disappear, appear and change form is described as magic. Seeming to defy the “natural” order of the world (i.e. defying gravity, walking through walls) is called magic. Moreover, amazing feats that stun or surprise us are deemed “magical.” You may soon find your list of magic acts getting quite lengthy!

Next it is helpful to look at some synonyms for magic. Illusions, tricks, stunts, and deceptions are all used to describe magic acts. Discuss with the children why something might be called a stunt, whereas something else is an illusion. Decide how broadly you would like to define the category of magic. Work with the children to create a working definition for the topic of magic.

Pre-Show Discussion Topics

Use the following questions to start classroom discussions prior to attending The Science of Magic:

- What is **MAGIC**?
- Name some famous magicians.
- What is your favorite magic trick?
- Does anyone know how to do a magic trick?
- If you could learn how to do one magic trick, what magic trick would you like to learn? Why?
- Do magicians have magical powers or do they use science to fool us?
- Where do magicians learn how to do magic?

