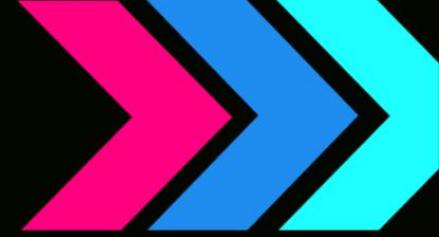


MAKE LEARNING FUN!



10 high-interest passages & activities themed to make learning engaging!

HARRY HOUDINI
One of the most world-renowned magicians of all time was Hungarian-born Erik Weisz. Born in 1874, he actually wasn't very popular at first. But he soon met a manager who helped him become more successful in 1899. His career began to improve when he changed his name to Harry Houdini.

HARRY HOUDINI
Name: _____
Put a T for true or an F for false in each box.

Houdini's <i>Water Torture Cell</i> trick was performed with his hands tied behind his back instead of his feet chained.	A. Houdini was known as "the man who could escape anything."	B. Houdini was known as "the man who could escape anything."
Houdini was involved in movies and was an early airplane pilot.	C. Houdini's final escape trick was breaking out of Scotland Yard's jail in 1926.	D. Houdini's final escape trick was breaking out of Scotland Yard's jail in 1926.
Houdini was an instant success and never struggled early in his career.		
Houdini was best known for making objects disappear rather than for escape acts.		
Houdini first performed with his brother Dan before teaming up with his wife Bess.		

THE TRICK THAT SHOCKED US
PC Sorcar was an Indian magician known worldwide. One of his most famous tricks was the Floating Lady, where he used aerial suspension to make a woman appear to float. A hidden metal rod held up his assistant while he waved a hoop around her. He just didn't wave the hoop near the hidden rod. It kept the secret rods unseen. Lighting, angles, and distractions made the trick so convincing that the audience was amazed.

However, it was not always successful. The first time he performed it live on TV, his assistant, Dimple, suddenly disappeared. Viewers were shocked and hurt. The reaction of the audience was so intense that it made it seem even more real. It was one of the most talked-about tricks of the most talked-about magicians.

THE TRICK THAT SHOCKED US
Match up each word with the correct definition by coloring each match a different color.

1. aerial suspension	4. distraught	A. Very upset or worried.	D.
2. illusion	5. broadcast	B. Famous for something bad or shocking.	E.
3. infamous	6. reaction	C. A person is held up by hidden supports behind them.	F.

RABBIT OWNERS BEWARE
In Queensland, Australia, only magicians can legally own rabbits. The government has strict laws to prevent rabbits from harming the environment. They believe if they let anyone own a rabbit, too many rabbits may run away or be released into the wild and will start to hurt the environment. Breaking the rules can result in a \$45,500 fine. Only 34 magicians in the city are approved to own rabbits. They must go through a process to get their license.

RABBIT OWNERS BEWARE
Name: _____

1. Why does Queensland have strict laws about rabbit ownership? a) Rabbits are dangerous to people. b) The government believes rabbits could harm the environment. c) Rabbits are too expensive to own.	2. What must magicians do to legally own a rabbit in Queensland? a) Pay a large fee and take a test. b) Train their rabbit to perform tricks. c) Have their own professional magicians to help with an escape. d) Submit an application to the Pet Industry Association.	3. Why was it difficult for Mr. Britt to get his rabbit microchipped? a) He had to bring a vet from the UK. b) The rabbit was too young for the procedure. c) Microchipping is illegal in Queensland. d) There were no microchip devices available.	4. What happens if rabbit owners do not renew their licenses? a) They have to pay a fine. b) They must leave Australia. c) They risk losing their rabbit. d) Their rabbit must perform in a magic show.
5. What is the main idea of the passage? a) Queensland only allows magicians to own rabbits due to concerns about environmental damage. b) Magicians are the best pet owners.	6. Which statement best describes the ongoing debate about rabbits in Queensland? a) The government refuses to change the law, while some people argue rabbits make great pets. b) The law is changing, allowing more people to own rabbits. c) The Pet Industry Association now agrees with the government. d) Queensland has banned magicians from owning rabbits.		

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

You can use these passages:

- for classroom transformations
- during your ELA block
- as partner/small group activities
- skill practice
- as assessments
- for test prep
- remediation
- enrichment
- themed days
- fast finisher activity
- and more!

THE CONTENT:

10 high-interest passages & activities in 2 formats: hands-on & no prep!

Hands-On Centers

MAGICIANS WHO FOOLED SCIENTISTS

Some magicians have performed tricks so convincing that scientists couldn't explain them. They used clever tricks on the brain, and distraction to make things seem real.

One famous case was Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin. He was a 19th-century magician. He performed *The Light and Heavy Chest*, where a small box became impossible to lift. Scientists later discovered he used hidden electromagnets to control the weight under the box. Another trick, *The Bullet Catch*, made it look like he stopped a bullet with his bare hands. His mix of science and magic made him one of history's greatest illusionists.

In the 1970s, Uri Geller claimed to have psychic powers (control things with his mind). He said he could bend spoons, stop clocks, and read minds. Some scientists believed him, but magician James Randi proved Uri was using hand tricks and distractions which are magic tricks. James Randi showed that spoon bending was done by secretly applying pressure to the spoon, and clocks could be stopped using simple tricks.

The Davenport Brothers, magicians in the 1800s, tricked people into thinking they could talk to spirits. They performed inside a wooden box where they were tied up. But when the doors closed, instruments played, ghostly hands appeared, and strange noises filled the air. Scientists thought they had real powers, but the brothers used hidden assistants, secret compartments, and quick hand movements. People later caught them by opening the cabinet early or noticing they only performed in complete darkness. Don't believe everything you see!

MAIN IDEA:
Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin amazed scientists with his magic.

MAIN IDEA:
Uri Geller fooled people into believing he had psychic powers.

MAIN IDEA:
The Davenport Brothers fooled people into believing they could talk to spirits.

A. He combined science and magic techniques to make illusions more realistic.

E. Magician James Randi exposed him, proving he used sleight of hand and misdirection like stage magicians.

B. When the doors closed, instruments played, hands appeared, and strange noises were heard.

C. His *Bullet Catch* trick made it look like he caught a bullet with his bare hands.

D. Randi showed that spoon bending was done by secretly applying pressure and clock stopping was just a simple trick.

H. People caught them by opening the cabinet early or noticing they only performed in complete darkness.

No-Prep Printables

MAGICIANS WHO FOOLED SCIENTISTS

Each main idea has 4 supporting details. Color each detail box the correct color.

RED Main Idea: Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin amazed scientists with his magic.	A. He combined science and magic techniques to make illusions more realistic.	B. When the doors closed, instruments played, hands appeared, and strange noises were heard.	C. His <i>Bullet Catch</i> trick made it look like he caught a bullet with his bare hands.
YELLOW Main Idea: Uri Geller fooled people into believing he had psychic powers.	D. Randi showed that spoon bending was done by secretly applying pressure and clock stopping was just a simple trick.	E. Magician James Randi exposed him, proving he used sleight of hand and misdirection like stage magicians.	F. He claimed he could bend spoons, stop clocks, and read minds using only his thoughts.
GREEN Main Idea: The Davenport Brothers fooled people into believing they could talk to spirits.	G. He performed <i>The Light and Heavy Chest</i> making a box too heavy to lift.	H. People caught them by opening the cabinet early or noticing they only performed in complete darkness.	I. They performed inside a wooden box, claiming spirits moved objects inside.
	J. Scientists later found out he used hidden electromagnets to control the weight.	K. He pulled off his trick in the 1970s.	L. They secretly used hidden assistants, secret compartments, and quick hand movements to create the illusion.

Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

With this version, students read the passage. Then, they complete a hands-on center activity you can laminate and re-use for years to come.

Or in this version, students read the passage. Then, they complete the activity in worksheet form. This version is NO PREP and PRINT & GO! Just as much fun as the hands-on centers!

2 Versions of Every Passage Included for Students

MAGIC VS SCIENCE

Both magic tricks and science tricks create illusions (things that appear a certain way, but aren't what they seem) that surprise people, but they work in different ways. Magicians use trickery, while science uses physics and chemistry in the "tricks".

Magicians have been performing for centuries. They make impossible things seem real. A famous example is Houdini's Straitjacket Escape, where he freed himself while hanging upside down. Vanishing tricks make objects disappear by making the person watching distracted. Levitating card tricks use invisible threads or magnets to make a card appear to float. These tricks do not use real magic, only clever skills.

Science tricks create cool effects, but they follow real science. Fireproof Money Tricks make it look like money is burning. When actually, the science uses a mix of water and alcohol to make a coat on the money that prevents burning. "Oobleck" lets people run on top of cornstarch and water because the liquid hardens under pressure.

Both magic and science tricks surprise people and make them question what they

MAGIC VS SCIENCE

Both magic tricks and science tricks can create illusions that surprise and entertain people. While they may seem similar, they use different methods to achieve their effects. Magicians rely on deception, misdirection, and sleight of hand (quickly moving your hands), while science tricks use physics, chemistry, and optical illusions to create their results.

Magicians have performed for centuries and are pros at making the impossible seem real. One famous trick is Houdini's Straitjacket Escape. He was able to free himself while hanging upside down. Another classic is the Vanishing Ball. This is where a ball seems to disappear from a magician's hand, but it is actually inside the magician's palm or hidden up a sleeve or behind a similar color. The Zig-Zag Lady Illusion makes it look like a person is cut into three pieces, but hidden compartments create the illusion. David Copperfield's Statue of Liberty Disappearance trick used carefully positioned spotlights and misdirection to make the landmark seem to vanish. Levitating Card Tricks use invisible threads or magnets to make a card appear to float in midair. There is no real magic actually occurring in any of these tricks.

Science tricks also create surprising effects, but they are based on real scientific principles. The "Floating" Paperclip Trick works because of the way water's surface holds things together (called surface tension). This makes it seem like a metal object is floating. Fireproof Money Tricks use a mix of water and alcohol to let a dollar bill be set on fire without burning. There are also science stunts that allow people to run on a pool of cornstarch and water because the liquid hardens under pressure (also known as "oobleck"). The Pepper and Soap Trick makes pepper spread away in water when you add dish soap because of the surface tension.

Despite their differences, both magic and science tricks can surprise a crowd and make people question reality. Both magic and science tricks use hidden forces to work. Some magic tricks even borrow from science, like using mirrors to create illusions. Both science tricks and magicians' tricks require good timing and careful planning to be successful. Often, they each need to be done multiple times repeatedly to be carried out correctly. Whether through trickery or science, both show that things aren't always what they seem.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

A SPOOKY...HOUSE?

Every neighborhood has a haunted house where kids dare each other to go inside on Halloween. But in Hartford, Connecticut, there is a house that isn't haunted. It's a trick. An illusion is something that looks real but isn't. This house is an illusion.

In 1930, a magician named A. Everett "Chick" Austin Jr. built the house to look like a huge mansion. But it was not what it seemed. From the outside, it looked big and grand. But it was much smaller than people expected on the inside.

The house's bricks made it look solid. In reality, most of it was just painted pine boards, not bricks. It was 90 feet wide but only 18 feet deep. All of the rooms were in a single row. Unlike normal houses with rooms behind each other, this house was only one room thick. It was designed to fool the eye like a magic trick.

Chick Austin was a magician and a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. He was proud of his home because it tricked people. Inside, it had a big staircase, fancy furniture, and detailed carvings. Many people visited to take pictures and

A SPOOKY... HOUSE?

Every neighborhood has a haunted house or two where kids dare each other to go inside on Halloween in October. But in Hartford, Connecticut, there is a house that is not haunted. It is an illusion. An illusion is something that looks real but is actually a trick. It can fool your eyes or mind into seeing something that isn't really there or is different from what it seems.

In 1930, a magician named A. Everett "Chick" Austin Jr. built the house to look like a grand 16th-century Palladian villa. However, the house was not what it seemed. It looked like a full mansion from the outside. But inside, it was much smaller than people expected.

The outside of the house is made of brick and stucco which makes it appear solid and grand. However, most of it is actually painted pine boards. The house is 90 feet wide, but only 18 feet deep. This means there is only one row of rooms with no space behind them. Unlike normal homes, where rooms are connected in different layouts, this house is only one room thick from front to back. It was designed to trick the eye so it appears larger than it actually is. This is like an illusion in a magic trick.

Differentiate and give your students the version best for them!

CENTER 1

Multiple Choice

RABBIT OWNERS BEWARE

Queensland, Australia, only magicians can legally own rabbits. The government has strict laws to prevent rabbits from harming the environment. They believe if they let anyone own a rabbit too many rabbits may run away or be released into the wild and will start to hurt the environment. Breaking the rules can result in a \$4,500 fine.

Only 34 magicians in the city are approved to own rabbits. They must go through a long process to prove they are professional magicians. They must also submit an escape plan of what they will do in case the rabbit gets loose. Few people receive approval.

Name: _____

RABBIT OWNERS BEWARE

1. B	2. C	3. A	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Why does Queensland have strict laws about rabbit ownership?

- Rabbits are dangerous to people.
- The government believes rabbits could harm the environment.
- Rabbits are too expensive to keep as pets.
- Magicians requested a special law for rabbits.



1.

What must magicians do to legally own a rabbit in Queensland?

- Pay a large fee and take a test.
- Train their rabbit to perform tricks.
- Prove they are professional magicians and submit an escape plan.
- Buy their rabbit from a government-approved pet store.



2.

Hands-On Center:

Students choose A, B, C, or D on each card.

Name: _____

RABBIT OWNERS BEWARE

1. Why does Queensland have strict laws about rabbit ownership? a) Rabbits are dangerous to people. b) The government believes rabbits could harm the environment. c) Rabbits are too expensive to keep as pets. d) Magicians requested a special law for rabbits.	2. What must magicians do to legally own a rabbit in Queensland? a) Pay a large fee and take a test. b) Train their rabbit to perform tricks. c) Prove they are professional magicians and submit an escape plan. d) Buy their rabbit from a government-approved pet store.	3. Why was it difficult for Mr Britt to get his rabbit microchipped? a) The rabbit is born in a vet from the US. b) The rabbit was too young for the procedure. c) Microchipping is illegal in Queensland. d) There were no microchip devices available.	4. What happens if rabbit owners do not renew their licenses? a) They have to pay a fine. b) They must leave Australia. c) They risk losing their rabbit. d) Their rabbit must perform in a magic show.
5. Which of the following is NOT a reason why the government opposes rabbit ownership? a) Rabbits destroy crops. b) Rabbits cause soil erosion. c) Rabbits harm native animals. d) Rabbits attack people.	6. How does the Pet Industry Association feel about rabbits as pets? a) They think rabbits are too dangerous. b) They believe rabbits are great pets because they bond well with people. c) They agree with the Queensland government's decision. d) They want magicians to stop using rabbits in shows.	7. What is the main idea of the passage? a) Queensland only allows magicians to own rabbits due to concerns about environmental damage. b) Magicians are the best pet owners for rabbits. c) Owning a rabbit is too expensive for most people. d) The Pet Industry Association is making it easier for people to own rabbits.	8. Which statement best describes the ongoing debate about rabbits in Queensland? a) The government refuses to change the law, while some people argue rabbits make great pets. b) The law is changing, allowing more people to own rabbits. c) The Pet Industry Association now agrees with the government. d) Queensland has banned magicians from owning rabbits.

Write A, B, C, or D in each box.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 2

Cut and Paste

ALL ABOUT MAGIC

Fun Facts About Magic

The oldest magic book, *The Discovery of Witchcraft*, was published in 1594. Before he died, Houdini made a secret code with his wife Bess. During World War II, Jasper Maskelyne used magic tricks to fool enemies, tanks and ships.

Magic Over Time:

In the 4th century, magic became illegal. Magicians were punished as witches. By the 15th century, magic was seen as fun, and magicians performed simple tricks.

Today:

Magicians create bigger tricks like disappearing objects and levitation. Some famous magicians include Houdini, David Blaine, Siegfried and Roy, David Copperfield, and Doug Henning.

Name: _____

ALL ABOUT MAGIC

Glue each text feature where it belongs below.

Text Feature #1	Text Feature #2	Text Feature #3	Text Feature #4
Text Feature #5	Text Feature #6	Text Feature #7	Text Feature #8

table	subtitle	italics
bulleted list	table	title
illustration	text box	

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Hands-On Center:

Cut and paste each box where it belongs.

Name: _____

ALL ABOUT MAGIC

Glue each text feature where it belongs below.

Text Feature #1	Text Feature #2	Text Feature #3	Text Feature #4
Text Feature #5	Text Feature #6	Text Feature #7	Text Feature #8

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER

3

Compare & Contrast

MAGIC VS SCIENCE

Science tricks create illusions (things that appear a certain way, but they work in different ways). Magic tricks use physics and chemistry in the "tricks". Magic has been performing for centuries. They make impossible things seem possible. Houdini's Straitjacket Escape, where he freed himself while wearing a straitjacket. Vanishing tricks make objects disappear by making the person invisible. Levitating card tricks use invisible threads or magnets to make a card float. These tricks do not use real magic, only clever skills. Fireproof money creates cool effects, but they follow real science. Fireproof money is like money that is burning. When actually, the science uses a mix of water and a special coating on the money that prevents burning. "Oobleck" lets people walk on water because the liquid hardens under pressure. Science tricks surprise people and make them question what they see. Magic tricks even borrow from science, like using mirrors to create illusions. Both require timing, repeated practice, and lots of planning. Whether through trickery or science, both prove that what they seem to be is not always what it is.

Science Tricks	Magic Tricks	Both
Examples of these tricks are "oobleck" or "fireproof money".	These tricks rely on tricking the crowd by distracting them.	These tricks require time and planning.
B.	D.	A.
These tricks follow principles from nature.	These tricks surprise and amaze people.	E.
C.		

Hands-On Center:

Students sort the details where they belong by comparing and contrasting.

MAGIC VS SCIENCE
Read each letter and decide where it belongs. Write each letter where it belongs in the diagram.

MAGIC TRICKS: D, L, F, I
BOTH: E, H, A, G
SCIENCE TRICKS: C, J, B, K

These tricks require time and planning. (A)

Examples of these tricks are "oobleck" or "fireproof money". (B)

These tricks follow principles from nature. (C)

These tricks rely on tricking the crowd by distracting them. (D)

These tricks surprise and amaze people. (E)

These tricks involve props and hidden tools. (F)

These tricks create an illusion that tricks the human eye. (G)

These tricks can be ruined by a mistake. (H)

Examples of these tricks are "straitjacket escapes" or "levitating cards." (I)

These tricks can be explained through chemistry, physics, or biology. (J)

Anyone can do these tricks if they have the right materials and they can be tested. (K)

These tricks are meant to seem impossible. (L)

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER

4

Pairs Activity

THE TRICK THAT SHOCKED US

Richard Dumbleby was an Indian magician known worldwide. One of his most famous tricks was the Floating Lady, where he used aerial suspension to make a woman appear to float. A hidden metal rod held up his assistant while he waved a hoop around her. He just didn't wave the hoop near the hidden rod. It kept the secret rods unseen. Lighting, angles, and distracting the crowd made the illusion look real and left the audience amazed.

However, it was his Sawing a Woman in Half trick that made him infamous. In 1956, he performed it live on BBC television. It marked the first time magic had been done on TV. His assistant, Dipty Dey, climbed into a box. Sorcar appeared to saw her in half. When the screen showed what looked like her back separated from her body, the host, Richard Dumbleby, suddenly ended the broadcast on TV.

Viewers were distracted and worried. They feared Dipty Dey had been seriously hurt. The reaction from people watching was alarming. Thousands of people sent panicked calls to the BBC. Many believed Sorcar had committed a real crime. In truth, it was just an illusion, and Dey was unharmed. The host cut the broadcast on purpose to make it seem even more real. To this day, Sorcar's shocking performance remains one of the most talked-about moments in television history.

1.		C.
aerial suspension	A person is held up by hidden supports behind them.	
2.		E.
illusion	A trick that makes something look real, but it isn't.	
3.		B.
infamous	Famous for something bad or shocking.	

Hands-On Center:

Students put the two sides together to match each question with the correct answer.

THE TRICK THAT SHOCKED US
Match up each word with the correct definition by coloring each match a different color.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

aerial suspension

distracted

Very upset or worried.

How someone feels or acts after something happens.

illusion

broadcast

Famous for something bad or shocking.

A person is held up by hidden supports behind them.

A trick that makes something look real, but it isn't.

A show that is sent on TV or radio for people to watch or hear.

infamous

reaction

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 5

Sorting Game

MAGICIANS WHO FOOLED SCIENTISTS

Some magicians have performed tricks so convincing that scientists couldn't explain them. They used clever tricks on the brain, and distraction to make things seem real. One famous case was Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin. He was a 19th-century magician. He performed *The Light and Heavy Chest*, where a small box became impossible to lift. Scientists later discovered he used hidden electromagnets to control the weight under the box. Another trick, *The Bullet Catch*, made it look like he stopped a bullet with his bare hands. His mix of science and magic made him one of history's greatest illusionists.

In the 1970s, Uri Geller claimed to have psychic powers (control things with his mind). He said he could bend spoons, stop clocks, and read minds. Some scientists believed him, but magician James Randi proved Uri was using hand tricks and distractions which are magic tricks. James Randi showed that spoon bending was done by secretly applying pressure to the spoon, and clocks could be stopped using simple tricks.

The Davenport Brothers, magicians in the 1800s, tricked people into thinking they could talk to spirits. They performed inside a wooden box where they were tied up. But when the doors closed, instruments played, ghostly hands appeared, and strange noises filled the air. Scientists thought they had real powers, but the brothers used hidden assistants, secret compartments, and quick hand movements. People later caught them by opening the cabinet early or noticing they only performed in complete darkness. Don't believe everything you see!

 MAIN IDEA: Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin amazed scientists with his magic.	 MAIN IDEA: Uri Geller fooled people into believing he had psychic powers.	 MAIN IDEA: The Davenport Brothers fooled people into believing they could talk to spirits.
---	--	---

A. He combined science and magic techniques to make illusions more realistic.	E. Magician James Randi exposed him, proving he used sleight of hand and misdirection like stage magicians.	B. When the doors closed, instruments played, hands appeared, and strange noises were heard.
C. His <i>Bullet Catch</i> trick made it look like he caught a bullet with his bare hands.	D. Randi showed that spoon bending was done by secretly applying pressure and clock stopping was just a simple trick.	H. People caught them by opening the cabinet early or noticing they only performed in complete darkness.

Hands-On Center:

Students sort each card onto the correct mat.



MAGICIANS WHO FOOLED SCIENTISTS

Each main idea has 4 supporting details. Color each detail box the correct color.

RED
Main Idea: Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin amazed scientists with his magic.

YELLOW
Main Idea: Uri Geller fooled people into believing he had psychic powers.

GREEN
Main Idea: The Davenport Brothers fooled people into believing they could talk to spirits.

Name: _____ THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 6

Color by Code

A SPOOKY... HOUSE?

Every neighborhood has a haunted house where kids dare each other to go inside on Halloween. But in Hartford, Connecticut, there is a house that isn't haunted. It's a trick. **An illusion is something that looks real but isn't.** This house is an illusion.

In 1930, a magician named A. Everett "Chick" Austin Jr. built the house to look like a huge mansion. **But it was not what it seemed. From the outside, it looked big and grand. But it was much smaller than people expected on the inside.**

The house's bricks made it look solid. **In reality, most of it was just painted pine boards, not brick.** It was 90 feet wide but only 18 feet deep. **All of the rooms were in a single row. Unlike normal houses with rooms behind each other, this house was only one room thick.** It was designed to fool the eye like a magic trick.

Chick Austin was a magician and a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. **He was proud of his home because it looked great.** Inside, it had a big staircase, fancy furniture, and detailed carvings. **Many people visited to take pictures and see how unusual it was.** The neighbors, however, didn't like it. Their houses looked normal. **They thought his house was too strange and didn't fit in with the neighborhood.**

Today, the Austin House is a National Historic Landmark and part of the Wadsworth Athenaeum Art Museum. **It is not haunted but is one of the most interesting places to visit.**

Find and color the part of the house that made it look solid but was actually fake.

1. Color the answer red.

Color what the neighbors' opinion is of the house.

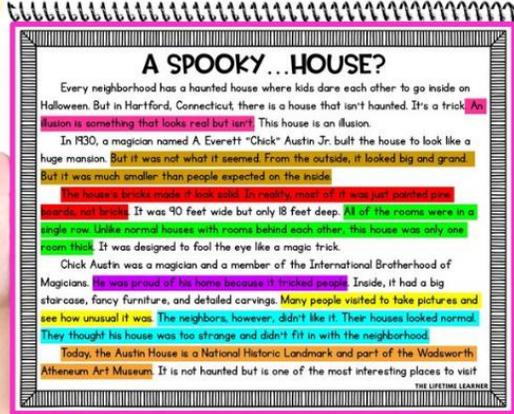
2. Color the answer light blue.

Color the sentence that describes why many people visited the house.

4. Color the answer yellow.

Hands-On Center:

Students use the coloring task card questions to color in answers in the text.



A SPOOKY... HOUSE?

Every neighborhood has a haunted house where kids dare each other to go inside on Halloween. But in Hartford, Connecticut, there is a house that isn't haunted. It's a trick. **An illusion is something that looks real but isn't.** This house is an illusion.

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Today, the Austin House is a National Historic Landmark and part of the Wadsworth Athenaeum Art Museum. **It is not haunted but is one of the most interesting places to visit.**

3. Color the answer light blue.

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 7

Task Cards

David Copperfield is a famous magician known for his big and exciting shows. He makes things disappear, floats in the air, and escapes from danger. He has performed on TV, in Las Vegas, and all over the world. People love his magic. He also tells stories in his shows to make them even better. His mix of magic and storytelling has made him very successful.

David Copperfield made the Statue of Liberty disappear to show the importance of freedom. He raised a big sheet to cover the statue. When he lowered it, the statue was gone, shocking the crowd. A helicopter flew into the space to prove it was gone. People watched in disbelief the trick was real. Later, he made it disappear again. As a result, people were reminded not to take anything for granted.

David Copperfield's escape from Alcatraz was full of challenges he had to solve. He was locked in a prison, wearing a straightjacket, with a bomb about to go off. First, he freed himself from the straightjacket. Then, he used a lock to distract the guard dogs, he made a cat escape in a helicopter and used darkness to hide. When he thought it was over, he reappeared in a police uniform.

Name: _____

DAVID COPPERFIELD PARAGRAPHS

1. Text Structure Used: **Description**
 Hints From the Text to Show Proof:
 "famous magician," "big tricks and exciting shows," "he has performed on TV, in Las Vegas, and all over the world," "he also tells stories," "mix of magic and storytelling"

2. Text Structure Used: _____
 Hints From the Text to Show Proof: _____

3. Text Structure Used: _____
 Hints From the Text to Show Proof: _____

4. Text Structure Used: _____
 Hints From the Text to Show Proof: _____

5. Text Structure Used: _____
 Hints From the Text to Show Proof: _____

Write the type of text structure used in each box and any clues that helped you figure it out.

Hands-On Center:

Students read each task card and write a response.



No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 8

Write a Sentence

DAVID BLAINE ATE... WHAT?

Take a deep breath. My stomach is calm, and my mind is focused. The crowd watches. They think the trick is over, but they have no idea what's coming next. Slowly, I open my mouth. I concentrate on using every muscle in my body. I bring the frog back up. It is not hurt and alive as the room erupts in shock. I see wide eyes and open mouths. They are unsure if what they saw was real. Did I really reappear? They search for answers, but I have none to give.

Magician David Blaine shocked audiences by swallowing a live frog and bringing it back up unharmed. He performed this stunt in front of celebrities like Drake, Chappelle, and Stephen Curry. The room was excited as they watched him swallow the frog in front of the stunned crowd. He was gone. But Blaine remained calm. Then, he opened his mouth. It hopped onto his hand which proved it was real. They were in disbelief and others laughed. "That's real magic; it seemed impossible. It was just another stunt in Blaine's history."

Name: _____

DAVID BLAINE ATE... WHAT?

1. He swallows a live frog and then brings it back up unharmed.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

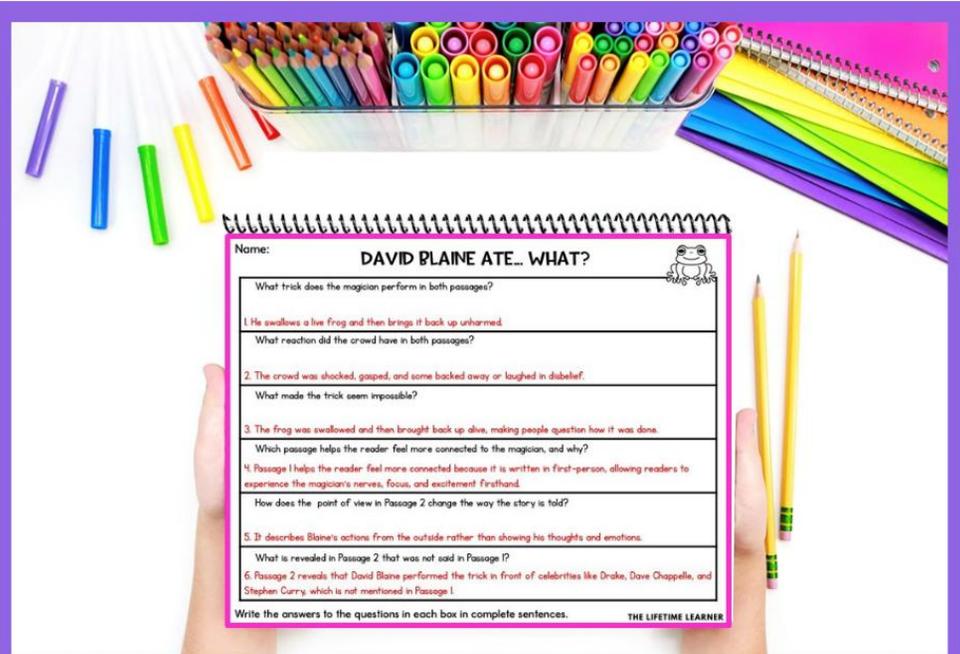
6. _____

Write the answers to the questions in each box in complete sentences.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Hands-On Center:

Students write the answer to each prompt on the lines.



No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER

9

Sequencing Puzzles

AN ACTOR MAKES SOME MAGIC

Some actors can do magic? Neil Patrick Harris is known for his acting. He starred in *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, *The Smurfs Movie*, and *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*. He was also a voice actor in *Penguins of Madagascar*.

But Harris has also always loved magic. He visited a magic shop and learned basic tricks. He wanted to become a magician and join the Magic Castle. It's a huge honor for any magician. He always makes magic performances. He always makes magic performances. He always makes magic performances.

Harris is not just a magician on TV. He wrote a book called *The Magic Misfits*. It's a story about a club for magicians in Los Angeles.

AN ACTOR MAKES SOME MAGIC PUZZLE MAT

Place the puzzle pieces in order here on the mat.

Event 1	Event 2	Event 3	Event 4
B. Neil Patrick Harris developed an interest in magic as a child.	E. He visited a magic shop to learn basic tricks.	F. He auditioned and was accepted as a junior member.	
Event 5	Event 6	Event 7	Event 8

A. Over time, he earned a spot on the board of directors and helped to run the club.

C. He later wrote *The Magic Misfits*, a book series about kids who use magic.

D. He continued improving his magic skills and became a regular member.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Hands-On Center:

Students put the puzzle pieces in chronological order.

AN ACTOR MAKES SOME MAGIC

First read the passage. Then, put the events in order below from #1 to #8 by writing a number at the top of each box. Put a #1 in the box that comes first and a #8 in the box that comes last.

6 A. Over time, he earned a spot on the board of directors and helped to run the club.	1 B. Neil Patrick Harris developed an interest in magic as a child.	8 C. He later wrote <i>The Magic Misfits</i> , a book series about kids who use magic.	5 D. He continued improving his magic skills and became a regular member.
2 E. He visited a magic shop to learn basic tricks.	4 F. He auditioned and was accepted as a junior member.	7 G. Eventually, he became the president of the Magic Castle.	3 H. As he got better, he set a goal to join the Magic Castle, a club for magicians in Los Angeles.

Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER

10

True or False

HARRY HOUDINI

World-renowned magicians of all time were Hungarian-born Erik Weisz. He was usually wasn't very popular at first. But he soon met a manager who became more successful in 1899. His career began to improve when he changed his name to Harry Houdini.

Houdini was interested in magic and performing from a young age. Growing up, he worked odd jobs, including as a bookkeeper. A skill that later helped him in his escape acts. He first performed with his brother Dash before meeting his wife, Bess, at Coney Island, who became his new partner. In addition to being a magician, Houdini appeared in movies and was also an early airplane pilot.

With help from his manager, Martin Beck, Houdini focused on escape acts. He freed himself from ropes, handcuffs, and straightjackets. He became even more famous after escaping from Scotland Yard, where police thought he was trapped.

One of his best tricks was *The Water Torture Cell*. He was lowered into a glass tank with his feet chained. A curtain covered him, but he always escaped. Another trick was *The Bar in a River*. Handcuffed and locked in a crate with leg irons, he was dropped into the water with 200 pounds of lead. He escaped in under a minute, leaving the handcuffs inside.

Known as the man who could escape anything, Houdini amazed crowds. He died in 1926 in Detroit, Michigan from appendicitis. His impact on magic will never be forgotten.

TRUE **FALSE**

Houdini was known as "the man who could escape anything." **B.**

Houdini's *Water Torture Cell* trick was performed with his hands tied behind his back instead of his feet chained. **A.**

Houdini's final escape trick was breaking out of Scotland Yard's jail in 1926. **D.**

Houdini was an instant success and never struggled early in his career. **E.**

Houdini's career improved after meeting his manager in 1899. **F.**

Houdini was best known for making objects disappear rather than for escape acts. **G.**

One of his famous tricks involved escaping from a locked crate dropped into a river. **H.**

Houdini first performed with his brother Dash before teaming up with his wife, Bess. **I.**

His manager, Martin Beck, taught him how to escape from ropes and handcuffs. **J.**

Hands-On Center:

Students decide if each card is true or false.

HARRY HOUDINI

Put a T for true or an F for false in each box.

Houdini's <i>Water Torture Cell</i> trick was performed with his hands tied behind his back instead of his feet chained. F	Houdini was known as "the man who could escape anything." T
Houdini was involved in movies and was an early airplane pilot. T	Houdini's final escape trick was breaking out of Scotland Yard's jail in 1926. F
Houdini was an instant success and never struggled early in his career. F	Houdini's career improved after meeting his manager in 1899. F
Houdini was best known for making objects disappear rather than for escape acts. F	One of his famous tricks involved escaping from a locked crate dropped into a river. T
Houdini first performed with his brother Dash before teaming up with his wife, Bess. I	His manager, Martin Beck, taught him how to escape from ropes and handcuffs. F

Name: _____

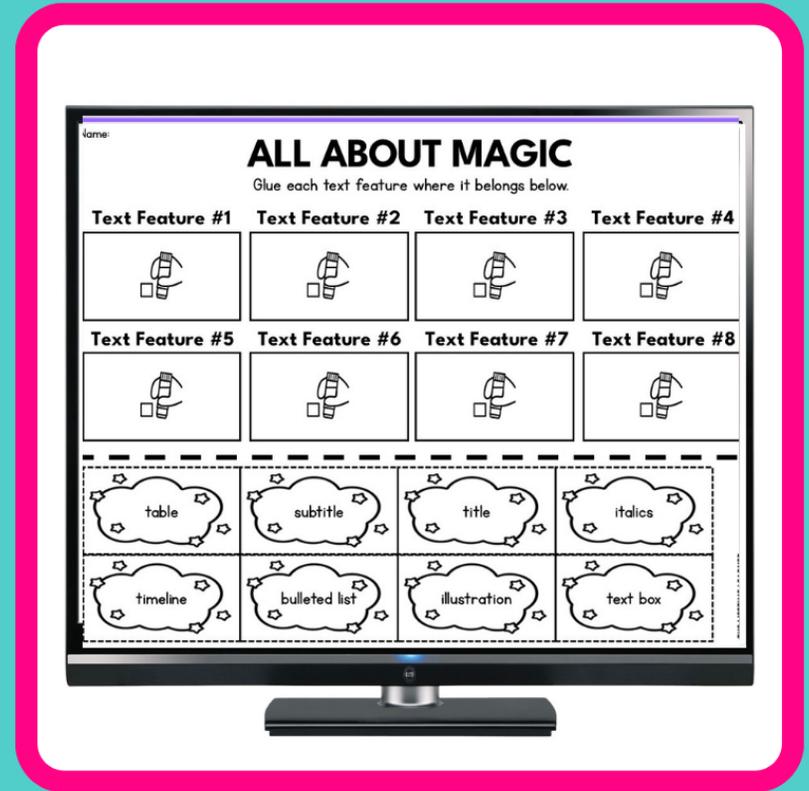
THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

PRINT & DIGITAL



Print & Go



Google Slides

Choose the format
that works best for you!

HOW TO USE THIS:

Ideas for Implementation:

- pick and choose the centers you want to use: do what works best for your class!
- give less than 10 centers to students if you are short on time
- give students the whole day to complete all 10 centers/activities OR spread the room transformation out over a couple of days
- use the hands-on centers during your room transformation and the no-prep printables as a review during your reading block

MAGICIANS WHO FOOLED SCIENTISTS

Some magicians have performed tricks so convincing that scientists couldn't explain them. They used clever tricks on the brain, and distraction to make things seem real.

One famous case was Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin. He was a 19th-century magician. He performed *The Light and Heavy Chest*, where a small box became impossible to lift. Scientists later discovered he used hidden electromagnets to control the weight under the box. Another trick, *The Bullet Catch*, made it look like he stopped a bullet with his bare hands. His mix of science and magic made him one of history's greatest illusionists.

In the 1970s, Uri Geller claimed to have psychic powers (control things with his mind). He said he could bend spoons, stop clocks, and read minds. Some scientists believed him, but magician James Randi proved Uri was using hand tricks and distractions which are magic tricks. James Randi showed that spoon bending was done by secretly applying pressure to the spoon, and clocks could be stopped using simple tricks.

The Davenport Brothers, magicians in the 1800s, tricked people into thinking they could talk to spirits. They performed inside a wooden box where they were tied up. But when the doors closed, instruments played, ghostly hands appeared, and strange noises filled the air. Scientists thought they had real powers, but the brothers used hidden assistants, secret compartments, and quick hand movements. People later caught them by opening the cabinet early or noticing they only performed in complete darkness. Don't believe everything you see!

MAIN IDEA:
Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin amazed scientists with his magic.

MAIN IDEA:
Uri Geller fooled people into believing he had psychic powers.

MAIN IDEA:
The Davenport Brothers fooled people into believing they could talk to spirits.

A. He combined science and magic techniques to make illusions more realistic.

B. When the doors closed, instruments played, hands appeared, and strange noises were heard.

C. His *Bullet Catch* trick made it look like he caught a bullet with his bare hands.

D. Randi showed that spoon bending was done by secretly applying pressure and clock stopping was just a simple trick.

E. Magician James Randi exposed him, proving he used sleight of hand and misdirection like stage magicians.

F. People caught them by opening the cabinet early or noticing they only performed in complete darkness.

What Skills are Included?

Nonfiction Skills:

- Text Evidence
- Main Idea and Supporting Details
- Context Clues
- Sequencing
- Text Structures
- Compare & Contrast
- Text Features
- Point of View
- Review Pages

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MAGICIANS WHO FOOLED SCIENTISTS

Each main idea has 4 supporting details. Color each detail box the correct color.



RED

Main Idea:

Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin amazed

A.



He combined science and magic techniques to make illusions.

B.



When the doors closed, instruments played, hands appeared, and strange

C.



His *Bullet Catch* trick made it look like he caught a bullet.

DAVID BLAINE ATE... WHAT?

Passage 1:

I take a deep breath. My stomach is calm, and my mind is focused. The crowd watches. They think the trick is over, but they have no idea what's coming next. Slowly, I open my mouth. I concentrate on using every muscle in my throat. Then, without

Name:

DAVID BLAINE ATE... WHAT?



1. What trick does the magician perform in both passages?

2. What reaction did the crowd have in both passages?

3. What made the trick seem impossible?

4. Which passage helps the reader feel more connected to the magician, and why?

5. How does the point of view in Passage 2 change the way the story is told?

The no prep printable questions are 100% editable!

Name: _____

RABBIT OWNERS BEWARE



1. Why does Queensland have strict laws about rabbit ownership? a) Rabbits are dangerous to people. b) The government believes rabbits could harm the environment. c) Rabbits are too expensive to keep as pets. d) Magicians requested a special law for rabbits.	2. What must magicians do to legally own a rabbit in Queensland? a) Pay a large fee and take a test. b) Train their rabbit to perform tricks. c) Prove they are professional magicians and submit an escape plan. d) Buy their rabbit from a government-approved pet store.	3. Why was it difficult for Mr. Britt to get his rabbit microchipped? a) He had to bring in a vet from the UK. b) The rabbit was too young for the procedure. c) Microchipping is illegal in Queensland. d) There were no microchip devices available.	4. What happens if rabbit owners do not renew their licences? a) They have to pay a fine. b) They must leave Australia. c) They risk losing their rabbit. d) Their rabbit must perform in a magic show.
5. Which of the following is NOT a reason why the government opposes rabbit ownership? a) Rabbits destroy crops. b) Rabbits cause soil erosion. c) Rabbits harm native animals. d) Rabbits attack people.	6. How does the Pet Industry Association feel about rabbits as pets? a) They think rabbits are too dangerous. b) They believe rabbits are great pets because they bond well with people. c) They agree with the Queensland government's decision. d) They want magicians to stop using rabbits in shows.	7. What is the main idea of the passage? a) Queensland only allows magicians to own rabbits due to concerns about environmental damage. b) Magicians are the best pet owners for rabbits. c) Owning a rabbit is too expensive for most people. d) The Pet Industry Association is making it easier for people to own rabbits.	8. Which statement best describes the ongoing debate about rabbits in Queensland? a) The government refuses to change the law, while some people argue rabbits make great pets. b) The law is changing, allowing more people to own rabbits. c) The Pet Industry Association now agrees with the government. d) Queensland has banned magicians from owning rabbits.

Write A, B, C, or D in each box.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

Name: _____

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Write A, B, C, or D in each box.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

edit any question!

10 Pre-Made
Centers
(Print & Go)

10 Pre-Made
Centers:
Editable Version

2 Versions Included

classroom transformations

low prep, fun, and engaging!



1st grade math



2nd grade math



3rd grade math



4th grade math



5th grade math



kindergarten math

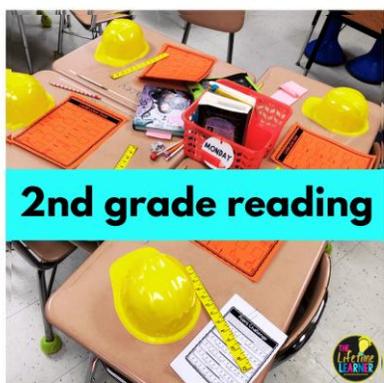
K-5 MATH & READING



kindergarten reading



1st grade reading



2nd grade reading



GR 3-5 reading comprehension



3-5 reading add-on packs



alphabet letters

Please Note:

- **This is not a stand-alone room transformation.**
- **There are no decorations included.**
- **There are 10 reading passages and activities provided.**
- **The questions are editable. The passages are not.**
- **The digital version is provided in Google Slides.**
- **This Add on Pack aligns with my math & reading classroom transformations.**
- **Let me know if you have ANY questions! You can email me at lindsaythelifetimelearner@gmail.com**