

# Magic of Teaching

There's Magic in Chemistry



## Introduction

Use magic tricks to capture student attention and to focus their mind on the concepts you wish to teach. The visual surprise of the magic trick will help to anchor the chemistry concept for your students. For example, *A Fun Magic Coloring Book* is an excellent way to teach observation skills or laboratory notebook detailing to your students.

## Concepts

- Collecting and recording data
- Observation

## Materials

*A Fun Magic Coloring Book*

## Safety Precautions

*Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before leaving the laboratory. Follow all laboratory safety guidelines. Please review current Material Safety Data Sheets for additional safety, handling, and disposal information.*

## Procedure

### *A Fun Magic Coloring Book*

1. Hold the bound edge of the book with your right hand. The book should be in front of you so that the pages, when opened, will face the students.
2. Place the fingers or thumb of your left hand against the *bottom portion* of the book. Flip the pages slowly from the front of the book to the back. Students will see blank pages in the book.
3. Place the fingers or thumb of your left hand against the *upper portion* of the book (the top 3.5 centimeters) and flip the pages slowly from the front of the book to the back. This will allow the students to see the set of uncolored pictures in the book.
4. Hold the book up to face the students again and place the fingers or thumb of your left hand against the middle portion of the book. Flip the pages slowly from the front of the book to the back. This will allow the students to see the set of colored pages in the book.

## Disposal

Please consult your current *Flinn Scientific Catalog/Reference Manual* for general guidelines and specific procedures governing the disposal of laboratory waste.

## Tips

- Flinn Scientific carries many novel “toys” that may be used to teach chemistry. Each toy comes with a ChemFAX explaining the science behind the toy.
- Practice all magic tricks before performing them in front of students.

- In the video, the presenter also uses flash paper. Check with your local police and fire departments before using flash paper in a classroom. As always take appropriate safety precautions such as safety goggles, demonstration shield, and placing all but one piece of flash paper away from the demonstration area.

## Discussion

*A Fun Magic Coloring Book* has three pages in each set. The first page is an uncolored picture, the second page is the same picture that has been colored, and the third page is blank. The uncolored pages are cut so they stick out farther than the other pages at the top of the book. The colored pages stick out farther in the middle of the book, and the blank pages stick out farther at the bottom of the book. Closely examining the pages makes this readily apparent. The position of your hand at the top, middle, or bottom determines which set of pages the students will see as you flip through the book.

## Connecting to the National Standards

This laboratory activity relates to the following National Science Education Standards (1996):

***Unifying Concepts and Processes: Grades K–12***

Evidence, models, and explanation

***Content Standards: Grades 5–8***

Content Standard G: History and Nature of Science, nature of science

***Content Standards: Grades 9–12***

Content Standard G: History and Nature of Science, science as a human endeavor

## Flinn Scientific—Teaching Chemistry™ eLearning Video Series

A video of the *Magic of Teaching* activity, presented by Mike Roadruck, is available in *There's Magic in Chemistry*, part of the Flinn Scientific—Teaching Chemistry eLearning Video Series.

## Materials for *Magic of Teaching* are available from Flinn Scientific, Inc.

Catalog No.	Description
AP6737	A Fun Magic Coloring Book

Consult your *Flinn Scientific Catalog/Reference Manual* for current prices.