March 2022

STEM On the Go!

St. Patrick’s Day is on March 17th!

This month, read the book *How to Catch a Leprechaun!* by Adam Wallace (E ST PATRICKS WALLACE), then try and create your own Leprechaun trap. But be careful, these little men from Irish Folklore are known for being quite the tricksters. It is said that these little bearded men, dressed in a green coat and hat, often have a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow!

Activity #1: Create your own Leprechaun Trap!

Sit down with your parents and think about your design. Figure out what materials you may need. Maybe you can use a toilet paper roll to make a trap door. Should you put some gold coins inside? Or maybe a shoebox with a hole at the top? Cover it with some soft paper, so the leprechaun falls through. Wooden or plastic building blocks can provide a sturdy trap but also laying a trail of their favorite food might be just the trick!

So design away, build away, and good luck catching your own leprechaun.

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Challenge #1: Make your own Rainbow

Materials: 2 paper towels, 3 clear cups, water, blue and yellow food coloring

1) Fill two cups halfway with water.

2) In one cup, put 1 or 2 drops of blue food coloring. In the other cup the yellow. Stir- use different spoons when stirring- to mix in the food coloring.

3) Line up your cups with the blue water on the left, the empty cup in the middle, and the yellow water on the right.

4) Fold your paper towels on the long side four times.

5) Carefully place the first paper towel into the empty cup, then into the yellow cup so it forms an arc over the two cups. Repeat with the other one, placing the paper towel into the empty cup, then the blue cup. Let your cups sit there and see what happens! It may take a few hours or even a day depending on the brand of paper towels you use.

BONUS ACTIVITY:

Work with a grown up and look up online how to make a popsicle catapult. Design your own catapult using popsicle sticks, rubber bands, and a plastic spoon! Look up simple machines and see if you can figure out which simple machine you used to make your catapult.

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