

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Observation Skills, Problem Solving

Materials List

- ✓ Copy of the Leprechaun Puzzle
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Optional: Matte board and adhesive or glue.

This activity can be used to support the teaching of:

- Problem Solving and Reasoning (Common Core Math Standards: Mathematical Practices Grades K-12)
- Science & Engineering Practices (Next Generation Science Standards: Grades K-12)



Instructions by Coral Clark (RAFT)

Vanishing Leprechaun

Tricky, Little Guys, Those Leprechauns!



A classic Paddy's Day favorite, The Vanishing Leprechaun amazes, confuses, and entertains. How good are your observation skills? And where did that little guy go?

To Do and Notice

1. Cut out a print or copy of the Vanishing Leprechaun image. The puzzle has 3 pieces: 1 bottom piece and 2 top pieces. Optional: For greater durability, adhere the image to matte board before cutting.
2. Place the pieces in the format pictured below and count the leprechauns.
3. Switch the top 2 pieces. How many leprechauns does the image show now?
4. What is going on with these leprechauns? Careful observations will help you find the leprechaun at the end of the rainbow.



Image from: http://www.math.duke.edu/~blake/leprechauns/vanishing_leprechaun1.htm

The Content Behind the Activity

RAFT encourages people to try and figure out what is going on in this challenge on their own. Careful observations will reveal pieces of 1 leprechaun redistributed to several other leprechauns, and thus appearing to “vanish”. As for the specifics of which leprechaun gets redistributed and how... Well, how good are YOUR observation skills?

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=448 for more resources!)

For more information on this activity, a larger image of the puzzle, and more specific explanations of what is going on, visit:

http://www.math.duke.edu/~blake/leprechauns/vanishing_leprechaun1.htm

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