

## MAGIC PAPER

At first glance, this magic “goldenrod” paper looks like an ordinary piece of yellow paper. In fact, someone could go their entire life thinking that this was just yellow paper. But, it’s magic! The secret is hidden in the dye used in making the paper.

True goldenrod paper is coated with a dye that acts as an acid-base indicator. If you rub a cotton ball soaked in ammonia water on the paper it will turn bright red! Ammonia water is a cleaning agent and is classified in chemistry as a base. You’ll soon notice that the red color will fade over time and the paper will eventually change back to its original yellow color. That’s because the carbon dioxide gas in the air we breathe is slightly on the acidic side of the pH scale. The carbon dioxide reacts with the ammonia on the paper to produce ammonium carbonate, which changes the pH of the paper to neutral and the dye changes back to yellow.

For an extra special Halloween effect, try making a bloody handprint! All you have to do is spray the palm of your hand with ammonia or glass cleaner and slap your hand on the magic goldenrod paper. Now you have a spooky, “bloody” handprint!

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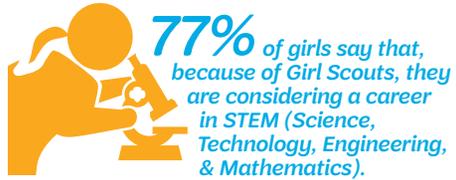
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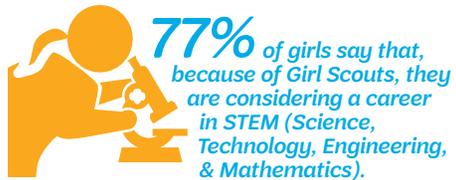




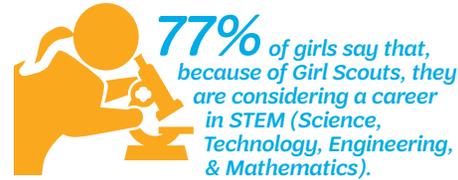
*The learning pyramid shows that people retain about 5% of information by hearing about it, 10% by reading about it, 30% by seeing it, and 75% by doing it themselves. When kids get their hands on exciting activities, it can inspire them to learn.*



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