

SECRET MESSAGES AND PICTURES

Here are three ways to hide words or pictures on a piece of paper – and the tricks you'll need to reveal them.

MAKE PAPER DAMP

- 1 Wet a cloth with water. Then wipe it all over a piece of plain paper.
- 2 Cover the damp paper with a dry piece of paper. Use a pencil to write words or draw a simple picture on top.
- 3 Remove the top piece. You should see the words or picture on the bottom piece, too. Leave it to dry.
- 4 To make the words **REAPPEAR**, wipe it with a wet cloth again.



HOW IT WORKS

The pencil squashes the damp paper, leaving behind marks. They're hard to spot when the paper dries, but wetting it again makes the marks stand out.

DO A RUBBING

- 1 Put one piece of paper under another. Then write something on top, pressing hard.
- 2 Take the paper from underneath. Gently, rub a crayon or a pencil over the surface.



As the paper dries, the marks **DISAPPEAR**.

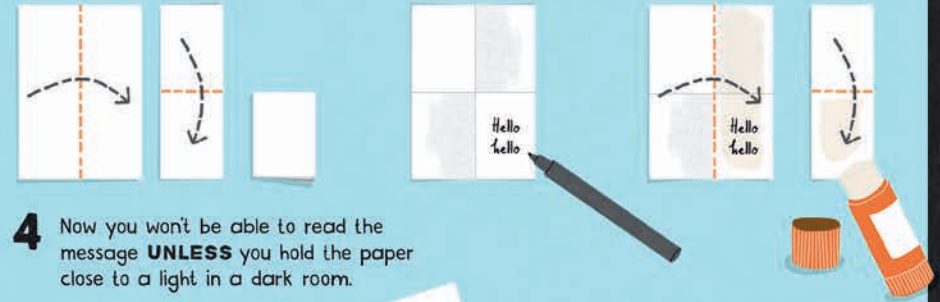
Can you see the words you wrote?

HOW IT WORKS

There's an imprint of the message in the paper underneath. The imprint is lower than the paper's surface, so your crayon or pencil can't fill it in.

USE LIGHT TO REVEAL WORDS...

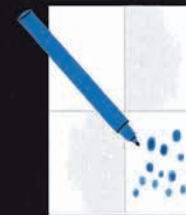
- 1 Fold a piece of thin, white paper in half, from left to right. Then fold it from top to bottom.
- 2 Open the paper. Write a message with a black pen in the bottom right quarter.
- 3 Redo both folds, using a glue stick to stick the layers together.



- 4 Now you won't be able to read the message **UNLESS** you hold the paper close to a light in a dark room.

...AND CHANGE PICTURES

To draw aliens with patterns that appear, repeat the steps above but doodle spots or squiggles in step 2 and copy one of the aliens onto the outside of the folded paper.



Now you see our patterns!



You could cut out your picture, too.

HOW IT WORKS

The ink absorbs light as it shines through the paper, so you can see the words or patterns from the outside.



Usborne Activities

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