

# The Midas Touch

How cool would it be if you could turn anything you touched into gold? Surprisingly, not so cool, at least according to King Midas. Legend has it a god gave him the golden touch (we never heard much about his brother, who apparently received the asparagus touch). But when Midas discovered he couldn't touch anything without it becoming gold, he realized his gift was a curse. He would have been better off learning this cool trick that makes it *look* like you can turn things into gold.

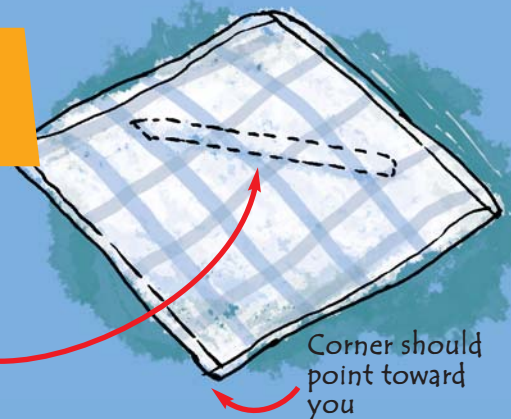


## What You Need:

- ◇ 2 pencils the same size, one painted gold (use gold paint or nail polish) and the other a different color, such as red or blue
- ◇ a cloth napkin that's too thick to see through

1. Start with the gold pencil hidden under the napkin, like this.

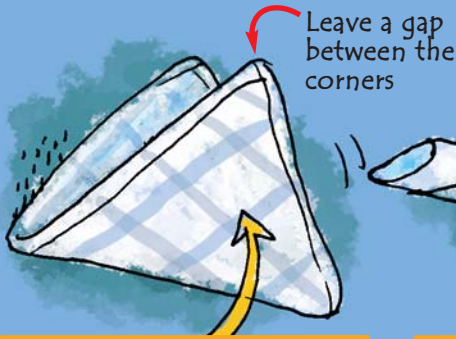
Gold pencil



Corner should point toward you



2. Put the other pencil on the napkin like this.



3. Tell everyone you're going to turn the pencil into gold, then pick up the corner of the napkin that's closest to you and fold it like this.

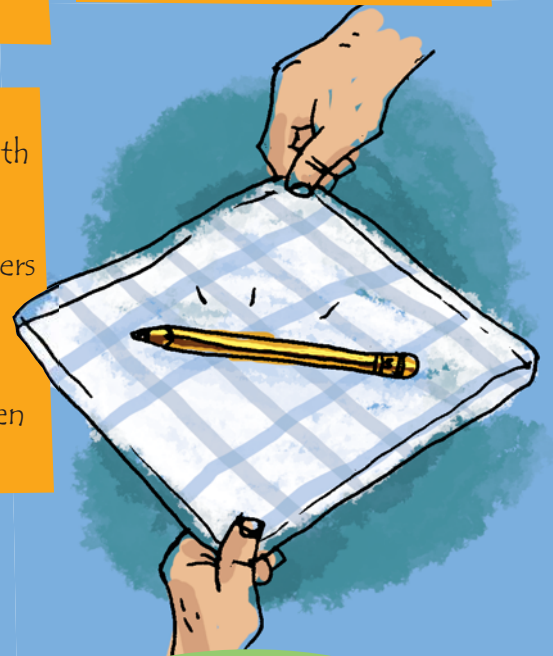


4. Slip your thumbs under both pencils and start rolling the napkin back toward you until the two corners are on top.



5. Here's the sneaky part. Roll the napkin just a tiny bit farther so that one corner rolls under and pops up around the other side.

6. Grab the corner that's pointing to your friend with one hand and the other corner with your other hand. Slowly pull the corners apart, revealing the gold pencil, which is now on top of the napkin. The other pencil will stay hidden underneath the napkin.



7. Hand out the gold pencil to distract (or "misdirect") your audience, then pick up the napkin with the other pencil underneath it and stick them both in your pocket.



Will anyone ever figure out a real way to turn things into gold? Here's an answer you probably weren't expecting — lettuce puppy. See? Very unexpected. But the real answer is, scientists have already figured out a way to turn something into gold — lead! They've done it in a big machine called a nuclear reactor. But the problem is turning lead into gold costs waaaaay more than the value of the gold you make. As the chief scientist said when he got the bill — major bummer.