

The Magic Window Card

Using the numbers from 1 to 31

Is it the Magic Card
or is it
an incredible display
of your mental abilities

A student picks a number from 1 to 31. They look at 5 cards and find all the cards that have their number on them. They stack all the cards that have their number on them on top of each other with the numbers facing up. They can stack the cards in any order.

You pick up the stack of cards and place the magic window card on top of the stack

You announce their number immediately

You do not know the cards they selected.

You only see the top card in the stack.

But the Magic Window Card Sees All and Knows All

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Magic Windows Cards

Procedure:

Ask the student to pick a number from 1 to 31. Have them tell a friend that number. Put the 5 cards with numbers on the desk in front of the student. Turn your back so you cannot see the cards. Tell them to very carefully look at 6 cards and find all the cards with their number on them. Have the friend help. It is easy to miss a card because the numbers are not in order. Have them turn over the cards that do not contain their number. Have them stack the cards they did select on top of each other with the numbers facing up. They can stack the cards in any order.

You turn around and pick up the stack of cards with their numbers on them and place the magic window card on top facing up. Add the numbers that show in the holes. That will be their number.

Preparation.

Print out the pages with the cards. Any paper will do but the heavier the better. I print on card stock to make the cards more durable.

Cut out all 7 cards. Cut out the squares labeled cut. This is a lot of work but the trick is worth it. I use invisible tape to tape over the holes on the front and back of the areas where the hole are close together

There are many ways to cut out the inside areas labeled **cut** without bending the cards. The safest way I have found is to use a hand held paper hole punch. I punch 2 holes next to each other inside the cutout area and then use a scissors to carefully cut out the rectangles.

You could use a sharp hobby knife with a steel straight edge and a cutting board. DO NOT let students use this tool.

Card 1

	3	cut	29	9	5	
	11	27	23	17	cut	
	cut	15	1	31	21	
	19	7	25	13	cut	

Card 1
1 = 0 0 0 0 0 1 base 2

Contains the numbers

1 , 3 , 5 , 7 , 9 , 11 , 13 , 15,
 17 , 19 , 21, 23 , 25 , 27,
 29 , 31

Card 2

	11	cut	30	7	15	
	22	6	26	19	2	
	cut	27	cut	31	23	
	14	3	18	10	cut	

Card 2
2 = 0 0 0 0 1 0 base 2

Contains the numbers

2 , 3 , 6 , 7 , 10 , 11 , 14 ,
 15, 18 , 19 , 22 , 23 , 26 ,
 27, 30 , 31

Card 3

	12	cut	28	5	13	
	23	29	14	21	cut	
	4	31	cut	30	6	
	20	15	7	22	cut	

Card 3
4 = 0 0 0 1 0 0 base 2

Contains the numbers

4 , 5 , 6 , 7 , 12 , 13 , 14 ,
 15 , 20 , 21 , 22, 23 , 28 ,
 29, 30 , 31

Card 4

	12	8	24	31	10	
	26	30	29	13	cut	
	cut	14	cut	28	15	
	11	27	25	9	cut	

Card 4
8 = 0 0 1 0 0 0 base 2

Contains the numbers
 8 , 9 , 10 , 11 , 12 , 13 , 14 ,
 15 , 24 , 25 , 26 , 27 , 28 ,
 29 , 30 , 31

Card 5

	24	16	29	20	18	
	30	27	23	26	cut	
	cut	19	cut	31	21	
	22	28	25	17	cut	

Card 5
16 = 0 1 0 0 0 0 base 2

Contains the numbers
 16 , 17 , 18 , 19 , 20 , 21 ,
 22 , 23 , 24 , 25 , 26 , 27 ,
 28 , 29 , 30 , 31

The Magic Window						
		cut				
						cut
	cut		cut			
						cut
Sees All Knows All						

Base 2 digits for the numbers 1 to 31 base 10

Base 10		card 5 $2^4 = 16$	card 4 $2^3 = 8$	card 3 $2^2 = 4$	card 2 $2^1 = 2$	card 1 $2^0 = 1$	the number is on Cards
1	$0 + 0 + 0 + 0 + 1$	0	0	0	0	1	Card 1
2	$0 + 0 + 0 + 2 + 0$	0	0	0	1	0	Card 2
3	$0 + 0 + 0 + 2 + 1$	0	0	0	1	1	Card 2 , 1
4	$0 + 0 + 4 + 0 + 0$	0	0	1	0	0	Card 3
5	$0 + 0 + 4 + 0 + 1$	0	0	1	0	1	Card 3 , 1
6	$0 + 0 + 4 + 2 + 0$	0	0	1	1	0	Card 3 , 2
7	$0 + 0 + 4 + 2 + 1$	0	0	1	1	1	Card 3 , 2 , 1
8	$0 + 8 + 0 + 0 + 0$	0	1	0	0	0	Card 4
9	$0 + 8 + 0 + 0 + 1$	0	1	0	0	1	Card 4 , 1
10	$0 + 8 + 0 + 2 + 0$	0	1	0	1	0	Card 4 , 2
11	$0 + 8 + 0 + 2 + 1$	0	1	0	1	1	Card 4 , 2 , 1
12	$0 + 8 + 4 + 0 + 0$	0	1	1	0	0	Card 4 , 3
13	$0 + 8 + 4 + 0 + 1$	0	1	1	0	1	Card 4 , 3 , 1
14	$0 + 8 + 4 + 2 + 0$	0	1	1	1	0	Card 4 , 3 , 2
15	$0 + 8 + 4 + 2 + 1$	0	1	1	1	1	Card 4 , 3 , 2 , 1
16	$16 + 0 + 0 + 0 + 0$	1	0	0	0	0	Card 5
17	$16 + 0 + 0 + 0 + 1$	1	0	0	0	1	Card 5 , 1
18	$16 + 0 + 0 + 2 + 0$	1	0	0	1	0	Card 5 , 2
19	$16 + 0 + 0 + 2 + 1$	1	0	0	1	1	Card 5 , 2 , 1
20	$16 + 0 + 4 + 0 + 0$	1	0	1	0	0	Card 5 , 3
21	$16 + 0 + 4 + 0 + 1$	1	0	1	0	1	Card 5 , 3 , 1
22	$16 + 0 + 4 + 2 + 0$	1	0	1	1	0	Card 5 , 3 , 2
23	$16 + 0 + 4 + 2 + 1$	1	0	1	1	1	Card 5 , 3 , 2 , 1
24	$16 + 8 + 0 + 0 + 0$	1	1	0	0	0	Card 5 , 4
25	$16 + 8 + 0 + 0 + 1$	1	1	0	0	1	Card 5 , 4 , 1
26	$16 + 8 + 0 + 2 + 0$	1	1	0	1	0	Card 5 , 4 , 2
27	$16 + 8 + 0 + 2 + 1$	1	1	0	1	1	Card 5 , 4 , 2 , 1
28	$16 + 8 + 4 + 0 + 0$	1	1	1	0	0	Card 5 , 4 , 3
29	$16 + 8 + 4 + 0 + 1$	1	1	1	0	1	Card 5 , 4 , 3 , 1
30	$16 + 8 + 4 + 2 + 0$	1	1	1	1	0	Card 5 , 4 , 3 , 2
31	$16 + 8 + 4 + 2 + 1$	1	1	1	1	1	Card 5 , 4 , 3 , 2 , 1