



Magic Tricks For The Month Of:

# February

## Change Bag:

- **Black and white hugs (paper hearts with the word hugs, love, or kisses on them) goes in,** and comes out as a black and white panda, zebra, white bunny with a black ribbon etc. holding a valentine heart that says love with XOXOXO on it.
- We have a mini unit on the post office and how to address an envelope during February. I tie it in with Valentine's Day. We make a valentine, put it in an envelope and walk to the post office to mail it. I introduce all of this exciting information with a change bag trick:
- **Put in a stamp, address, return label, envelope and a letter.** (All in pieces and parts), Pull out the envelope sealed and put together. Slit it open and read the letter.
- This is even more dramatic if you choose a child and sign their name on the bottom of the letter. Make a "show" of picking several children who choose a number from one to ten. Whatever child's name you put on the sealed letter is the one you say got the number correct. They haven't a clue! It is just soooo neat to see their amazement!
- Paper heart in, Valentine card out.

- **Paper conversational heart in with the number of my students on it**, that many candy conversational hearts out. They all get to suck on one while I read the story.
- **I put a single tissue paper heart in with a specific number on it**; I pull out a garland of hearts with each one numbered. I choose a helper child who gently helps me pull the string of hearts out and walks out the door with them. As discussed before, look for these theme-shaped garlands, buy several, number them, glue the two ends together and have an "Oh wow!" affect when you pull them out of your change bag. Because they are long, and spring into something huge (many are honeycombed) they have the illusion of being bigger than they really are!
- **Photo of a ground hog in**, small groundhog puppet out. He asks the children if they think he will see his shadow today. We graph the results and then go Online to see if he did. **(See my Groundhog Unit is February for more details.)**
- **A heart with the number 100 on it goes in**, an invitation to the 100 Day celebration the next day, comes out.
- **The number 100 goes in**, a list of ways you can say and write the number 100 comes out. Children transition to their desk to trace and write 10 different ways to write 100 in 10 different languages.
- I really get into the study of coins in **February** because of President's Day and all the holiday hoopla surrounding Washington and Lincoln. There are many change bag tricks you can do with coins. The children enjoy seeing you **"make change"** and it helps reinforce all sorts of mathematical coin concepts. Here are just a few. I know you'll think of more.

- Put 5 pennies in and take out a nickel.
- Put 2 nickels in and take out a dime.
- Put 10 pennies in and take out a dime.
- Put 2 dimes and a nickel in and take out a quarter.
- Put 4 quarters in and produce a dollar.
- Put 10 dimes in and produce a dollar.
- Put 5 one dollar bills in and produce a five dollar bill.
- Put a normal penny in, and change it into a two-headed penny. (I have these for sale on my website.) It's just a fun and silly trick to amaze the children. You can also tell them that you can make a penny come up tails all the time, and keep flipping this coin. I have my students do a Heads/Tails Tally Graph in February. (See the Money Unit in February.)
- I have a clipart pix of Washington, I throw it in and out comes a clipart pix of Lincoln. Since they are always getting them mixed up, I toss Abe back in and produce George; then I hold up both pix and ask them which is which. I still have some students confuse the two. I put the two pix on the board and we make a Venn Diagram of the two presidents. (See my Presidential Unit in February for more details.)
- I also go over our US flag at this time and I have an amazing Stars & Stripes trick that I do for the children with my change bag. I simply bought 3 medium sized fabric flags. I colored one flag's stars with a red marker, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> flag's stars with a blue marker; the 3<sup>rd</sup> flag I left the way it should be. This is a great color and pattern review for them.

I die-cut some red, white and blue stars from a hand-held punch and pass them out to the children who **drop the 3 colors of stars in the bag**. Oops the flag comes out with red stars, we try again and I take out the red stars this time, Oops the flag comes out with blue stars, oops I take the blue stars out and only add the white ones and a red and white strip of paper and walah the flag comes out correctly.

