



DESCRIPTION

Pick a card - any card! So goes the beginning of a great trick that will amaze your friends and family.

MATERIALS

- Deck of playing cards

DIRECTIONS

1. Go through the deck of cards and remove the four cards with the number three, as well as the four number fours. The threes should be placed on the top of the deck and the fours should be placed on top of the threes.
2. Fan out the cards to show your audience, but be sure not to show the top eight cards or else it might look funny. You don't want anyone to see the threes and fours together.
3. Then perform a "false shuffle." Place your right thumb at the bottom end of the deck and your other right fingers at the top of the deck. Using your left hand, start pulling cards from the deck, allowing the cards to fall into your left hand. Continue until you have pulled about 30 cards from the deck. Shuffle these cards together as they fall into your hand. Stop when you have about ten cards left in your right hand. Place those cards on top of the shuffled pile in your left hand. Now you've shuffled all of the cards except the threes and fours at the top of the deck.
4. Now, deal the top eight cards into a row onto the table from left to right. Ask your friend to pick a card and, without picking it up, slide it forward. Pick up the remaining seven cards from left to right. Place them on top of the deck.
5. Begin dealing the cards face down into a pile onto the table. After you've dealt about seven cards, tell your friend to stop you at any time.
6. When your friend tells you to stop, place the cards still in your hand aside. Gather up the cards you've just dealt.
7. Have your friend flip over the card they picked earlier and tell your friend that their card will dictate how many piles you will now divide the deck into. For example, if the card your friend selected was a three, divide the cards up into three piles.
8. Divide the cards onto the table into three piles. Remind your friend that you shuffled the cards and get ready to amaze them. Wave your hands over the cards, snap your fingers and flip over the top card of each pile. They are all threes!

Did you know there's a free web video for this activity with step-by-step instructions?
See all the fun activities for kids at www.activitytv.com.



Alternate Ending:

1. Follow the card trick until step 6.
2. Since your friend selected a four, divide the cards into piles of four.
3. Remind your friend that you shuffled the deck and placed the cards into piles of four based on the number they picked.
4. After you have dealt out all of the cards, wave your hands over the piles and snap your fingers. Flip over the top card of each pile and amaze your friends. All four cards are the number three!