



Activity #2:

Leprechaun Traps!

Critical Thinking, Problem-Solving, Engineering Practices

(Preparation: 5-10 minutes to gather materials / Activity Time: 20-30 minutes)

What Will You Need?

*(*Be creative! These are just a few suggestions out of the many, many materials that can be used!)*

(1) A mixture of crafting materials such as:

- **An old cardboard shoebox**
- **Colored Construction Paper**
- **Pipecleaners**
- **Kid-Friendly Scissors**
- **Tongue Depressor Sticks or Wooden Skewer Sticks (the pointy ends can be cut off by an adult with a pair of scissors)**
- **Washable Markers, Crayons, Colored Pencils, or Washable Paint**
- **Tape or Glue**

(2) Leprechaun “Bait” such as:

- **Coins**
- **Non-valuable Jewelry**
- **Lucky Charms Cereal Marshmallows**
- **Goldfish Crackers**

(3) Creativity! Your student may need some guidance when thinking of how to use the materials, but everyone can bring their own unique and creative approach to the building process!

Instructions:

As you may know, leprechauns can bring lots of good luck to your home, but they can also be mischievous and play tricks on unsuspecting humans! Let's work together to build a leprechaun trap (or several) to catch them before their silly jokes get out of hand. *(It may be important to note that this is a catch and release activity! If you DO catch a leprechaun, it will not be harmed, but will be relocated safely out of the house)*

Some things to think about before you build:

What do leprechauns like?/How will we get the leprechauns to go into our trap?

What will the trap look like?

How strong will the trap need to be?

How big will the trap need to be?

What materials will we need to build the structure and make it strong enough?

Under Adult Supervision: Students will plan out their leprechaun trap, discussing and listening to everyone's ideas if doing the activity as a group. Next, lay out the materials that the trap will require. We recommend that any drawing or painting that students want to add to their trap be done *before* the trap is assembled with tape or glue. Once the planning stage, as well as any painting, drawing, and coloring are complete, it is time to assemble the trap! Your student may have decided to have their trap look like a small house with four (or more) walls and a roof, or perhaps a box with a hidden trap door - the choice is theirs!

Once built, put the bait where the leprechaun will see it! Leave it for a while and check back in later! Maybe the goldfish crackers that you put in have a few nibbles taken out of them? (Adults - *hint, hint, wink, wink!*)

Here are three ideas that we found on www.thebestideasforkids.com

