Find the Gold

Purpose: This material can be used in many ways! We are going to give you a few ideas to get you started.

Preparation:

To prepare, print out a copy of the following pages. Cut out both sides of the black pot and attach to the sides of a shoebox (or other box). Then, cut out the gold coins and attach each to a piece of index card or other sturdy paper (if desired). Make sure you have plenty of gold for the children to find!
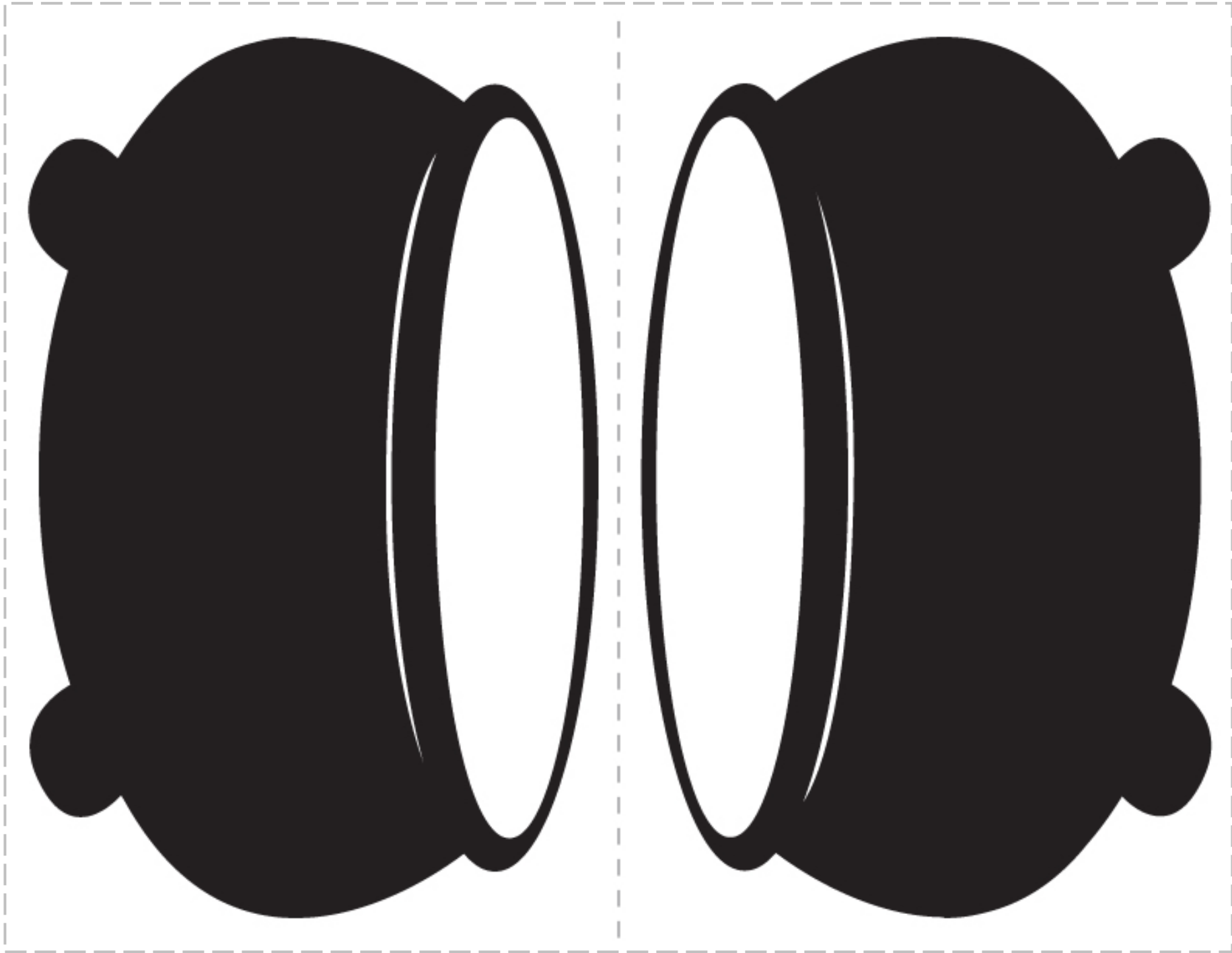
Use:

When the children are not looking, hide the gold around the room or even outside (if the weather is nice). Then, while the children are playing, find one of the gold coins and act very excited! Explain that today is St. Patrick's Day and maybe the gold coin you found was hidden there by a leprechaun! Show the children the black pot and invite them to look for gold coins hiding around the room or outside. As they find the gold, have them put it in the pot. Then, once all the gold has been found, have the children estimate how many pieces of gold they think are in the pot. Write down each child's guess along with his/her name. Once the children finish estimating, count to see how many pieces of gold they found. How close were their estimates to the actual amount?

Alternate Uses:

Print out 10 gold coins and gather 10 empty plastic drink bottles. Tape one gold coin to each bottle and then use these to play, "Gold Coin Bowling." Each time the children roll the ball, have them count the number of pins that are standing and the number that fall down.

Print out gold coins and one pot for each child. Invite each child to cut the sides of the pot apart and glue to a paper lunch bag. Give the children a specific number of gold coins to put in the pot OR show the children numeral cards, have them identify the numerals and then put the matching number of gold coins in their pots.

As a creative writing follow-up (for more advanced children), give them the story starter, "If I found a pot of gold coins, I would…" and have them write and draw to share their ideas.

Happy St. Patrick's Day