

Electricity and Magnetism

Magical Magnets

Background

There are three types of metals that are magnetic: iron, nickel, and cobalt. If an item contains one of these metals, a magnet will stick to it. Otherwise, it will not.

Objectives

- To acquaint students with magnets and the idea that some materials are magnetic and some are not.
- To deduce a general rule about magnetism from specific observations.

Student Instruction

Talk about what objects in your classroom are made of: wood, plastic, paper, metal. Explain that many objects are made from more than one type of material. Point out to students that there are different types of metals. Tell them that some metal objects are actually made from a combination of metals. Talk about the things they can observe when examining a metal: color, softness, density, etc.

Center Preparation

Materials: 1 magnet; 10-12 small objects such as a paper clip, penny, dime, head (paper fastener), safety pin, metal scissors, chalk, paper, crayon, pen, pencil, book, eraser, rubber band

Directions: Provide a magnet. A magnet that is round, about 1/2 inch (1.25 cm) in diameter, and is used for hanging things on walls is ideal because it should be fairly strong. **Helpful Hint:** When the magnet gets dropped and cannot be found, remember to check the metal legs of the desk or the underside of metal shelves. Collect a sample of 10-12 readily recognizable objects from around the classroom. Make sure to include several that are made of metal and several that are not. For younger students, write the names of the objects on Lab Worksheet —Level A (page 50) before reproducing it.

Follow-Up Activities

Review where students think magnets will stick in the classroom and why. Then allow them to test their theories.

Use magnets to test food and beverage cans of different types. See if your students can determine that aluminum beverage cans are not magnetic while steel or brass cans are. Explain that this property is used in the recycling process to separate the different types of metal before processing.

Allow students to test the strength of the magnet by seeing how many of one type of object, such as paper clips, it can pick up.

Provide different types of magnets for students to examine and use. Have them discuss how the magnets are alike and different.

Show students how to magnetize a needle by rubbing it in one direction on a bar magnet. Allow them to carefully experiment with the magnetized needle.

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Learning Center Activities For Electricity And Magnetism

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Summary : Free learning center activities for electricity and magnetism pdf download - these interesting and challenging hands-on activities for learning centers help reinforce physical science concepts and skills and allow for opportunities to extend and enrich students general science knowledge and understanding

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