Magnet Magic

Preschool, Kindergarten | Science | 45 minutes
by Rekha Mundkur | June 24, 2015

Help your students' reasoning skills grow with this activity that has them make educated guesses on whether or not an item will be attracted to a magnet.

Learning Objectives
Students will be able to identify what items are attracted to a magnet.

Materials and Preparation

Materials
- A Look at Magnets by Barbara Alpert
- Magnetic letters or numbers
- Metal baking sheet
- Magnetic wand
- Paper clips
- Plastic tray or a box
- Plastic toys
- Paper cards
- Various small metal items
- Shredded paper or Styrofoam packing material

Preparation
- In the tray or box, place paper clips, paper cards, metal objects, and plastic toys in one layer. Cover these items with a layer of shredded paper or Styrofoam packing material.
- Prepare smaller boxes in a similar fashion for students to use in small groups. Place these boxes around the room at work stations.

Get more lesson plans at www.education.com/lesson-plans/
Lesson

Introduction  *(5 minutes)*
- Call your students into a group and tell them that today's lesson is about magnets.
- Ask students what they already know about magnets.
- Explain to them the properties of magnets and how they are attracted to metal.
- Show them some magnetic letters and place them on a metal baking sheet to display this point.

Explicit Instruction/Teacher Modeling  *(10 minutes)*
- Read *A Look at Magnets*.
- Give students a few magnetic letters and ask them to place them to the metal baking sheet.
- Bring out the prepacked box.
- Wave a magnetic wand over the box and show them how only some objects are attracted to the wand.
- Tell them how only magnetic objects are attracted to the wand.

Guided Practice/Interactive Modeling  *(10 minutes)*
- Put all the objects back into the box and let the students take turns with the magnetic wand.
- This is better done in a group as you supervise their passing the wand to their classmates and taking a turn at pulling out objects.
- Ask them to guess which objects will stick to the wand. Let them check if their guess was correct.

Independent Working Time  *(10 minutes)*
- Allow students some time to familiarize themselves with the materials.
- Have students guess whether or not the items will be attracted to the magnet or not.
- Let students test their guesses by running the magnetic wand over their box.
- Walk around the room and provide assistance if needed.
- Ask questions as they work to make them think about the activity and how magnets work.

Get more lesson plans at [www.education.com/lesson-plans/](http://www.education.com/lesson-plans/)
Extend

Differentiation

- **Enrichment**: Experiment with stronger or weaker magnets and see how the objects react. Students can also learn about the poles of a magnet. Example: *opposite poles attract and like poles repel.*
- **Support**: Pair up students in a way that the students who understand the activity can help the others.

Related Books and/or Media

Review

Assessment *(5 minutes)*

- Observation is key to measuring how much students understand this lesson.
- Walk around, observe, and note if the students are following your instructions.

Review and Closing *(5 minutes)*

- Once the students have had an ample amount of time to work on the concept on their own, you may call them back into a group.
- Show students some objects and see if they can guess whether or not they are magnetic.