

Name: _____ Date: _____

In this activity, you will learn about magnets. Magnets can push (repel) or pull (attract) other magnets and objects. You will do some tests to see what magnets can do.

Here are some words we will use:

- **Magnet:** A thing that can pull iron and steel objects, or push or pull another magnet. For example, a magnet on your fridge.
- **Attract:** When two things pull together and stick. For example, a magnet can attract a paper clip.
- **Repel:** When two things push away from each other. For example, two magnets might push away if you try to put them together.

Tips for this activity



Read each question slowly. Think about what you already know about magnets. Do the tests carefully and write down what happens.

A. Test Some Magnets

Put two magnets together in different ways. See if they stick together (attract) or push away (repel). Record what you see in the table.

Magnet Position	Does it Attract or Repel?
a.) North end to South end	
b.) North end to South end	
c.) North end to North end	
d.) South end to South end	
e.) Any other way	

B. Check Some Objects

Test different objects with a magnet. Do they stick to the magnet? Record what you find in the table.

Object	Does it Stick? (Yes/No)
a.) Paper clip	
b.) Paper clip	
c.) Wood block	
d.) Plastic ruler	
e.) Aluminum foil	

? C. Solve These Problems

Read each question carefully. Think about magnets and what they do.

- Use what you learned to answer the questions.
- Write your answers in the spaces.

a.) Why do two magnets sometimes push away from each other?

b.) What kinds of objects stick to a magnet?

c.) Can a magnet pick up a penny? Why or why not?

d.) What happens if you put a magnet near another magnet?

e.) Why do some things stick to magnets and others do not?

Answer key



To the teacher

⚠ Carefully review and double-check all answers to ensure accuracy. Save a copy, then delete this section before sharing with students.

A. Test Some Magnets

- a.) North end to South end: Attract
- b.) North end to North end: Repel
- c.) South end to South end: Repel
- d.) Any other way: Answers will vary.

B. Check Some Objects

- a.) Paper clip: Yes
- b.) Wood block: No
- c.) Plastic ruler: No
- d.) Aluminum foil: No

C. Solve These Problems

a.) Why do two magnets sometimes push away from each other?

If you put the same ends together (like north and north), they push away.

b.) What kinds of objects stick to a magnet?

Objects made of iron or steel usually stick to magnets.

c.) Can a magnet pick up a penny? Why or why not?

No, a magnet can not pick up a penny because pennies are not made of iron or steel.

d.) What happens if you put a magnet near another magnet?

They will either stick together or push away from each other.

e.) Why do some things stick to magnets and others do not?

Some things have iron or steel inside them and others do not.