

Fascinating Magnets

Magnets are very special because they have a superpower—they can pull some things towards them without even touching!



Imagine you have a toy car and a magnet. If you put the magnet near the car, nothing happens. But if your car was made of metal, like iron, the magnet would pull it closer. That's because magnets love to stick to things made of iron, steel, nickel, and cobalt.

Magnets have two ends called poles. One end is the north pole, and the other is the south pole. These poles are like the ends of a battery, but for a magnet. If you have two magnets, their north and south poles will want to meet and give each other a big hug. But if you try to push two north poles or two south poles together, they push away. They say, "No hugs today!"

But where does a magnet's power come from? Inside a magnet, there are lots of tiny things called atoms. These atoms have something called magnetic fields. When all the atoms line up in the same direction, they create a force that can pull or push other magnets or metal objects. You can find magnets in many places. They help keep the doors of your fridge closed, they can be in toys, and they even help hold your drawings on the fridge!

The next time you play with a magnet, remember its superpower and all the tiny atoms working together to make it strong. Remember, a magnet pushes and pulls!

1. Read the passage about "Fascinating Magnets".
2. Underline each word that you could not read or understand.

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Answer according to the reading passage:

1. What is the superpower of a magnet?

- a. they have a north and a south pole
- b. they can pull something towards them without touching it
- c. they have many, many atoms

2. Which statement is true?

- a. a north and south pole of a magnet push each other away
- b. a north pole and another north pole like to hug
- c. a north pole and a south pole like to hug

3. A magnet:

- a. pushes and pulls
- b. is heavy
- c. attracts atoms

4. What are magnets made up of?

- a. two poles
- b. magnetic force
- c. atoms

5. Magnets love to stick to:

- a. iron and steel
- b. nickel and cobalt
- c. all of the above

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Open Response Questions

Open Response Questions for Thinking Skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. Why do you think magnets only stick to certain types of metal?
 2. What are the different ways that magnets can be useful?
 3. What do you know about magnets?
 4. Describe what you think atoms look like.
- How might you test the strength of a magnet?
 - What are all the things you could use a magnet for?
 - What 3 questions do you have about magnets that you could research?
 - Why do you think magnets aren't used more in the building industry?