



How magnets work

BOX NOTICE

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| Name of the activity | How magnets work |
| Activity duration | 1h |
| Material needed | "How magnets work" box, two magnets of different power, a piece of wood, aluminium, plastic, a sheet of paper and an iron bar (or any other magnetic material) |
| Number of pupils involved (per box) | 2-3 to test the materials and report |

Step 1: Storytelling

Use the storytelling resource as an introduction to the topic of magnetism. Use the magnetic figures to tell the story of Jane Marcet and Michael Faraday!

Step 2: Practical experiments

Test the various elements from the box with the magnets, and write down whether they attract or repel each other or if nothing happens. Then, continue with the materials of the sequence you are working on.

Then, if you are working on the first sequence, you may recreate the experiment with the magnetised iron needle. This experiment is referred to as Ørsted's experiment: you may hover a magnet over the floating needle to make it change directions as it is attracted to both the Earth's and the magnet's magnetic North!



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Step 3: Some key historical figures

Use the storytelling resource's historical figure presentation to introduce your pupils to some of the greatest minds of the 19th century. This step will give a historical background to the experiments your pupils just performed and introduce some of the applications of magnetism that we still use today.

From the electric telegraph (Weber) to some of the most recent inventions, such as the railless trains, magnetism is everywhere! You may, in addition to conducting research about the four characters described in the storytelling resource, ask your class to list some of the most well-known inventions that rely on magnetism to work.



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