

Magnetic or Not?

Magnetism: a force at a distance

Magnetism is a **force at a distance** — a magnet can pull or push without touching. Every magnet has two ends called **poles** (north and south). **Unlike poles attract** (pull together); **like poles repel** (push apart).



Unlike poles (N-S) attract; like poles (N-N) repel. Iron filings reveal the invisible magnetic field around a bar magnet.

Safety: only your teacher handles the iron filings — they can hurt eyes and skin.

Test it: magnetic or not?

Q1. Test each object with a magnet. Tick whether it is **attracted** (magnetic) or **not attracted**.

Object	Attracted	Not attracted
Steel paperclip		
Plastic ruler		
Iron nail		
Wooden spoon		
Aluminium foil		
Coin		
Eraser		
Metal key		

Q2. Look at your results. What kind of material seems to be attracted to magnets?

Q3. What happens when you bring two **north** poles together? What about a north and a south pole?

Q4. Magnetism and gravity are both forces that act **at a distance**. Explain what "at a distance" means, and name one everyday use of a magnet.

Q5. A common mistake is thinking gravity only pulls things "down". In fact, gravity pulls objects with mass **together** — it pulls us towards the Earth because the Earth is so big. Draw an arrow showing which way gravity pulls a dropped ball.

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