

MAGNETISM & ELECTRICITY

BY DALLAS KOCH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction to Magnetism	1	Making an Electric Current Detector	17
What Do All of these Items Have in Common?	2	Making an Electric Current with a Magnet.....	18
Magnetic Force	3	Static Electricity and Electrical Charges	19
Magnetic Poles	4	Current Electricity	20
Behavior of Magnetic Poles	5	Wet and Dry Cells.....	21
Making Artificial Magnets	6	Conductors and Insulators.....	22
Materials Attracted by Magnetism	7	Everyday Conductors and Insulators	23
Effects of Non-Magnetic Materials on a Magnetic Field	8	Series Circuits.....	24
How a Compass Works	9	Parallel Circuits	25
The Earth as a Magnet	10	Kinds of Current	26
Molecular Theory of Magnetism.....	11	Parallel Versus Series	27
Orderly Molecules	12	Review of Electricity.....	28
Review of Magnetism	13	Magnetism & Electricity Background Material	29
Electricity and Magnetic Fields.....	14	Answers	31
Making Electromagnets	15		
Constructing a U-Shaped Electromagnet	16		

The activities in this book provide an introduction to the basic concepts of magnetism and electricity. Material presents magnets, circuits, and battery cells. Work is suitable for individuals, small groups, or class instruction. General background information, suggested activities, questions for discussion, and answers are included. Encourage students to keep completed pages in a folder or notebook for further reference and reviews.

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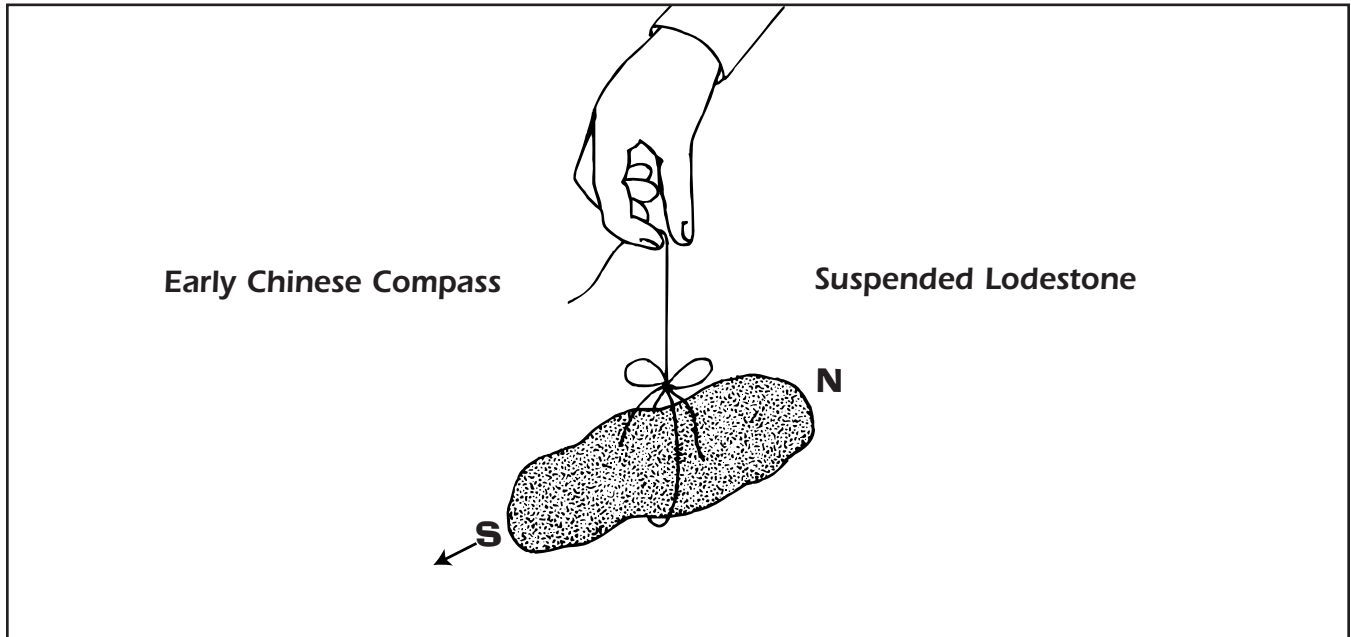
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MAGNETISM AND ELECTRICITY**INTRODUCTION TO MAGNETISM**

The ancient Greeks and Chinese knew about magnetism over 2000 years ago. They learned about magnetism from exposed pieces of black iron ore. This ore, which we call magnetite today, gave people direct contact with magnetism. Almost 2000 years ago, the Chinese hung thin pieces of this ore so that it could swing freely from a thread. The hanging stone made a simple

direction finder. These natural, magnetic rocks, became known as lodestones or "leading stones." By the 1200s, sailors were using iron needles, magnetized by pieces of lodestone as direction finders instead of using the lodestone itself.

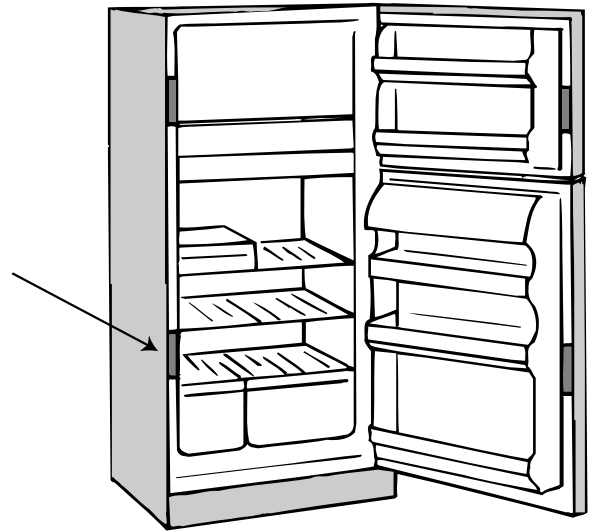
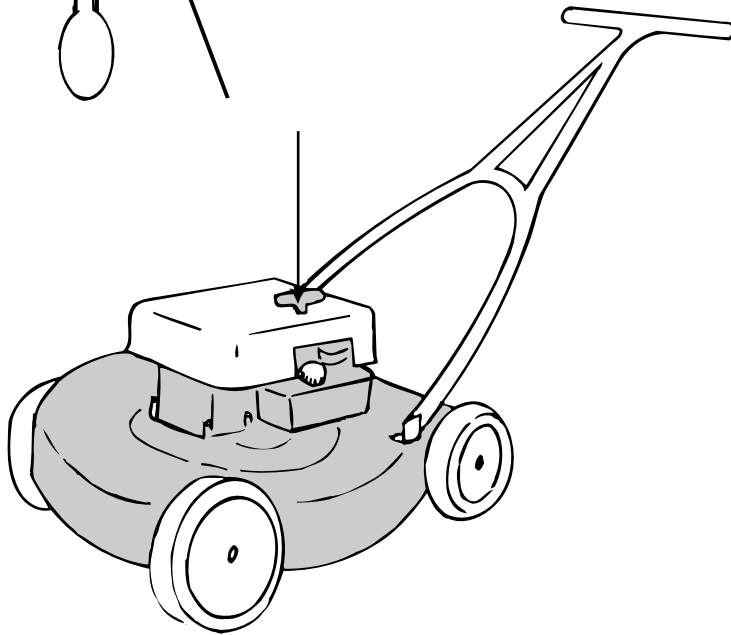
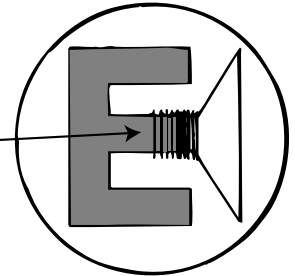
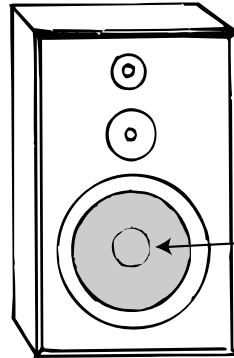
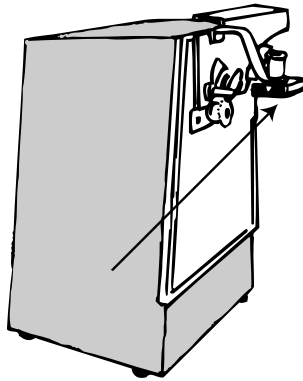
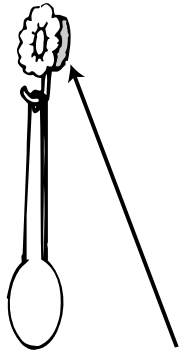
Today we know how to make strong, artificial permanent magnets. They are used frequently in our everyday lives.

List eight uses of magnets in or around your home or school.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

MAGNETISM AND ELECTRICITY

WHAT DO ALL OF THESE ITEMS HAVE IN COMMON?



List these and other household items that use magnets. Explain how each uses its magnets.

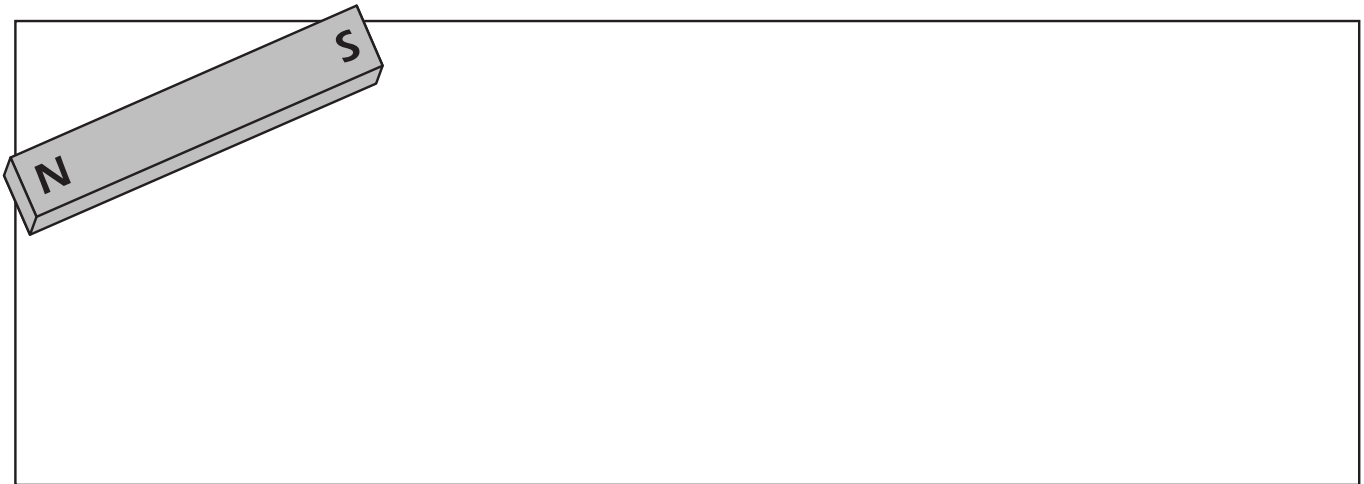
MAGNETISM AND ELECTRICITY**MAGNETIC FORCE**

Magnetism, like gravity, is a force that cannot be seen. Every magnet, however, has an area or space in which it exerts its force. This area or space is called the magnetic force field. The size of this field depends upon the strength and size of the magnet.

To help picture the presence of a magnet's field, try the following experiments.

ACTIVITIES

Place a sheet of white paper over a bar magnet. Sprinkle iron powder or iron filings lightly over the paper. Tap the paper gently. Draw a picture of what you see.



Repeat this activity with a horseshoe magnet. Draw a picture of what you see.

Each line or path pattern you see in these two experiments is part of a complete curve or loop. These are magnetic lines of force. Magnetic lines of force leave the north pole and enter the south pole of a magnet. A magnet is completely surrounded by these lines of force.

