

Brain Workout Extension Activity

MAGNETS: ATTRACTION



Age: 5-10

Time: 60 minutes

Materials

1. Artifacts created in the TBWA session:
 - Magnetic Wands
 - “Magic Boards”
 - “Magic Movers”
2. Other materials:
 - Basket/bucket
 - Objects available around the room

Use the activities below to help children keep exploring magnets after the TBWA Magnetic Attraction session.

When possible, divide children into teams of 2–3 so they can collaborate, compare ideas, and solve problems together.

In the TBWA session, students learned about magnetic and non-magnetic materials. They created magnetic wands and “Magic Movers,” then used the wands to move the movers across cardstock boards.



Magnet Scavenger Hunt



- Children search the room or outdoor area for objects that are attracted to their magnetic wands. All magnetic materials found are placed in a basket.
- Teams earn 1 for every magnetic object in the basket. The first team to reach 20 points wins.

Magic Mover Inventors



- Children invent new “Magic Movers” using objects found in the room. To make the mover work, it must include something that is attracted to a magnet, such as a paper clip, steel washer, binder clip, pipe cleaner, etc.
- Children test whether their new movers can move across the board when the magnetic wand is underneath.
- Teams earn 1 point for every new mover they invent. The first team to reach 8 points wins.

Surface Engineers



- Children test other surfaces to see whether the magnetic force can work through them, such as a table, plastic tray, folder, clipboard, or cardboard.
- Children move their movers using their Magnet Wand.
- Some surfaces may work better than others. Thick surfaces or metal surfaces may make the mover harder to control.
- Teams earn 1 point for every new surface they successfully test. The first team to reach 5 points wins.

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TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Safety Note

Use only large magnets that cannot be swallowed. Keep magnets away from phones, computers, credit cards, and medical devices. Remind children not to place magnets in their mouths.

Use small teams.

These challenges can be completed individually, but small teams of 2–3 children create more opportunities for collaboration. Working with a partner encourages children to listen, share ideas, support each other, and build a sense of belonging.

Encourage testing, not guessing.

Ask children to use their magnets to test objects instead of guessing. Some objects that look magnetic are not, such as many coins. Some objects may surprise them, such as pipe cleaners that contain steel wire.

Sometimes objects that look magnetic are actually not (e.g., coins), and some objects don't seem magnetic but they are (e.g., pipe cleaner). Emphasize that not all metals are magnetic. Magnets usually attract objects made with iron or steel, but they do not attract many common metals such as aluminum, copper, or most U.S. coins. For young children, you may say: Some metals stick to magnets, and some do not. Scientists test instead of guessing.

Discuss the Science behind the activity.

Magnets can pull on some objects without touching them. The magnetic force can travel through thin materials such as paper, cardstock, or a tabletop. Some materials make the force weaker, especially if they are too thick or made of metal. Ask the Kids:

- What objects stuck to the magnet?
- What objects did not stick?
- Did anything surprise you?
- Which surface made your mover easiest to control?
- How could you improve your mover?

Celebrate discoveries.

Children may find objects or surfaces that do not work. That is part of the learning. Encourage them to say, "We tested it, and here is what we found."