

Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FIRST GRADE

Title of Lesson: Magnet Mazes

Theme: Physical Science

Unit Number: 3

Unit Title: Magnets

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S1P2c

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks question
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Magnets, magnetic properties, material that magnets can pull through

Learning Activity (description in steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): Magnets have the ability to attract through plastic, wood, cardboard, and cloth.

Details: To begin, I did a brief review of the types of materials that magnets can work though since we had been talking about magnets for several weeks. We also took a moment to talk about what a maze was and set rules, such as not crossing a line and to work from start to finish. Then, I divided the class into 4 groups to go to 4 stations. At each station I had a maze that I had drawn on a certain material. One station had a maze drawn on a 2'x2' piece of wood, one was on a piece of sturdy poster board, one was on a plastic lid to a container, and the last was on a piece of cloth. Since our class had 16, the students in every group were numbered 1 to 4. I explained that if you are number 1, then it is your turn to control the magnet at station one and continued this through all 4 stations. At each station, the students took turns navigating a small magnetic chip through the maze by placing the magnet on the opposite than the chip. One student was in control of the magnet while the other 3 helped hold the maze up. Each group moved through all 4 stations. To close, we all came back together as a class and talked about what we learned about the materials magnets can go through.

Materials Needed (type and quantity): [Click here to enter text.](#)

1. 1 piece of ply wood
2. 1 piece of cloth
3. 1 piece of cardboard/poster board

4. 1 piece of plastic
5. 1 sharpie to draw mazes
6. 4 magnets
7. 4 magnetic chips (or paper clips)

Notes and Tips (general changes, alternative methods, cautions): Click here to enter text.

I noticed that we had enough time for all 4 students to do the maze at all 4 stations so, if time permits, I would allow multiple students to take a turn at each station. Also, the cloth seemed to be very difficult to students to handle because the edges were rolling up. If I were to redo the cloth maze, I would use a pillowcase or a more sturdy fabric than t-shirt material.

Sources/References:

- 1) <http://krazydad.com/mazes/>
- 2) Click here to enter text.
- 3) Click here to enter text.