

Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
THIRD GRADE

Title of Lesson: Magnets

Theme: Physical Science

Unit Title: Magnets and Magnetism

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S3P2. Students will investigate magnets and how they affect other magnets and common objects.

a. Investigate to find common objects that are attracted to magnets.

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Magnets, magnetic, magnetism, magnetic field

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

Set of magnets - 1 per group

Zip-Lock bags - 1 per group

Coins (penny, nickel, dime)

Paperclip

Cotton balls

Rubber bands

Aluminum foil

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

- Caution: make sure no sharp objects are in the bags.

- Make sure the students know to not place any object in their mouths.

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): Students will learn about magnetic and magnetism. They will determine whether common household objects are magnetic using magnets.

Details:

- 1) Before class fill each Zip-Lock bag with different objects. Make sure to have an good ratio of magnetic to non magnetic objects.
- 2) At the start of class fill out a KWL (know, want to know, learned) chart. This will give an idea of what should specific topic should be addressed.
- 3) Start the activity off with a brief introduction on the topic of magnets. A brainpop video or Bill Nye video is recommended. These are usually funny and keep the student's attention.
- 4) After the video, go over key concepts that the video talked about i.e. magnetic field, attraction and repulsion, etc.
- 5) Break the class into groups. Preferably a group will have a teacher to guide them, so break up the groups accordingly.
- 6) Hand out a Zip-Lock bag filled with different objects to each group.
- 7) Each group should have an index card and describe each item in their bags and come up with a hypothesis of whether or not the objects are magnetic.
- 8) After the students have made their prediction hand out magnets so the students can test their hypotheses.
- 9) After testing the different objects, instruct the students to write down whether or not their predictions were correct.
- 10) Bring the students back into a large group to go over what they learned about their objects.
- 11) Create a list of things that they found that were magnetic and non magnetic. Discuss the why certain objects were magnetic and why others were not.

Notes and Tips (continued):

- Make sure each student gets a turn at testing the objects.
- Slow the testing down, meaning after an object is tested, make sure they come up with an observation as a group and write it down.

References

- Ms. Harvey Magnets lesson plan
- Third grade best lesson, Magnets.