

**Project FOCUS  
Best Lessons  
THIRD GRADE**

**Title of Lesson:** Magnets

**Theme:** Physical Science

**Unit Number:**           **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.

**Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):**

**Habits of Mind**

- Asks questions
- 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

**Learning Activity (Description in Steps)**

**Abstract (limit 100 characters):** Students will investigate some common objects to see if they are magnetic.

**Details:**

Fill each Zip-Lock bag with 10 different objects and give them to each group.

Interact with the students by asking questions in order to determine everyone's knowledge of magnets. Start the activity off with a brief introduction on the topic of magnets and the science behind its attraction. Talk about the North and South Poles and how they contribute to magnet attraction.

Have groups with 3-4 students depending on the size of the classroom. Give each group a Zip-Lock bag filled with 10 different objects. Each student should identify and write down each object that they have in their bag. Before the actual experiment starts, instruct the students to write down their predictions on which objects the magnet will be attracted to. After they have finished making predictions, let the students test the predictions that they have made. After testing the different objects, instruct the students to write down whether or not their predictions were correct. This will allow the students to realize the different magnetic attractions that magnets have. Check with the class to see

the different results they got with doing the activity.

**Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):**

- Set of magnets - 1 per student (or 1 per group)
- Zip-Lock bags - 1 per group
- Coins (penny, nickel, dime)
- Set of pencils
- Toothpicks
- Paperclip
- Metal Key
- Random objects : small toys, cotton balls, bouncy balls, rubber bands, buttons, screws, etc.

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

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

**Sources/References:**

- 1) Originally submitted by Tunde Famuyiwa, edited by Jessica Valle (2010)
- 2)
- 3)