Magnets

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Magnets attract **iron**. **Opposite** poles (N and S) **attract**. **Like** poles (N and N, S and S) **repel**.

Remember: opposites attract, same ones push away!

The Power of Magnets



A **magnet** is an object that can pull certain metals toward it. This pull is called **magnetism**. Magnets can push or pull without touching, so magnetism is a non-contact force.

Magnets attract things made of **iron**, such as nails, paper clips and some kinds of steel. They do not attract wood, plastic, paper, glass, or most coins.

Every magnet has two ends called **poles**: a **north pole** and a **south pole**. When you hold two magnets together, opposite poles (north and south) **attract**, or pull together. Like poles (north and north, or south and south) **repel**, or push apart.

Magnets are useful in many ways. They hold notes on the fridge, keep cupboard doors shut, and help a compass needle point north.

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What do magnets attract?

(a) Things made of iron (b) Anything shiny (c) Wood and paper

2. What are the two ends of a magnet called?

(a) Tips (b) Sides (c) Poles

3. What happens when two north poles meet?

(a) They attract. (b) They repel. (c) Nothing at all.

4. Why is magnetism a non-contact force?

(a) It works without touching. (b) It needs touching. (c) It only works in water.

Magnets

Grade 3

2. Will a magnet pick it up?

Circle magnetic or not magnetic.

1	iron nail	magnetic	not magnetic
2	plastic spoon	magnetic	not magnetic
3	steel paper clip	magnetic	not magnetic
4	wooden block	magnetic	not magnetic
5	rubber eraser	magnetic	not magnetic
6	iron key ring	magnetic	not magnetic

3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **How could you test whether a mystery object is magnetic?**

Answer Key

Magnets · Grade 3

1. Check your understanding

1. What do magnets attract?

(a) **Things made of iron** (b) Anything shiny (c) Wood and paper

2. What are the two ends of a magnet called?

(a) Tips (b) Sides (c) **Poles**

3. What happens when two north poles meet?

(a) They attract. (b) **They repel.** (c) Nothing at all.

4. Why is magnetism a non-contact force?

(a) **It works without touching.** (b) It needs touching. (c) It only works in water.

2. Will a magnet pick it up?

1	iron nail	magnetic	not magnetic
2	plastic spoon	magnetic	not magnetic
3	steel paper clip	magnetic	not magnetic
4	wooden block	magnetic	not magnetic
5	rubber eraser	magnetic	not magnetic
6	iron key ring	magnetic	not magnetic

3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **How could you test whether a mystery object is magnetic?**
   Hold a magnet near it. If the object is pulled toward the magnet, it is magnetic.