

Magnetic Pick-ups

Making Your Predictions

One of the things that scientists do is make predictions about what they think will happen. They test these predictions by doing experiments to find out whether they were right or wrong. Then, they talk about what they learned from their experiments. Today you will be the scientist as you experiment with magnets.

1. Working with a partner, look at each of the things in the pile on your table. Which objects do you think will be attracted to the magnet? Why?

2. Make two piles. Place all the items you think will be attracted to the magnet in one pile. Place all the items you think **will not** be attracted to the magnet into another pile. How did you decide about each item?



3. Record your predictions on the data sheet.

Testing Your Predictions

1. Take turns with your partner. Bring the magnet close to one of the items. What happens? Is the item attracted to the magnet? How can you tell?
2. Test each item by bringing your magnet close to it. Remember to take turns with your partner.
3. Record your results on the data sheet.

Understanding Your Results

1. Talk with your partner about the predictions you made at the start of your experiment. Which predictions were confirmed? Which were not confirmed? It is all right if your predictions were not confirmed. Scientists often make predictions that turn out not to be confirmed.
2. Based on your findings, what observations can you make about the objects tested?
3. What conclusions can you make about the objects tested?
4. Looking back on when you sorted the objects earlier, did weight, texture, or size affect whether or not the object was attracted to the magnet? Give a response for each.

