



Post-Visit Activities

Pre-Kindergarten



Activities

These activities are intended for use after your visit to the Virginia Air and Space Center. Your students should recall the information and demonstration activities from the Magnets program in order to do these activities. All of the activities can be tailored to your specific classroom needs, and the procedures listed are suggestions for teaching.

Activity 1: Push or Pull

Place various magnets in a center in your classroom. Allow students to manipulate the magnets and try to make them attract (pull) towards each other or repel (push) away from each other. Let them feel the force of the magnets as they attract and repel. Place labels in the center that say “attract” and “repel” to reinforce the vocabulary they have learned in the Magnets program.

Activity 2: Magnetic or Not

Use a large sheet of butcher paper and draw a vertical line down the center of it to divide it into two halves. Label one half “Magnetic” and the other half “Not Magnetic”. Try to find a large magnet that you can use to test each object. Have the students sit in a circle and discuss what magnetic means. Then hold up various common objects and let the students predict if the object is magnetic or not. Some examples of items that would be attracted to a magnet are jar lids, jingle bells, paperclips, screws, washers, nails, etc. Some examples of items that would not be attracted to a magnet are balls, balloons, buttons, crayons, pom poms, rubber ducks, rubber bands, Styrofoam pieces, cotton balls, small plastic toys, small pieces of wood, etc. After the students have predicted whether the object is magnetic or not, test the object with the large magnet. Write the results in the appropriate column on the butcher paper. For example if you hold up a crayon and it is not attracted by the magnet, write “crayon” in the “Not Magnetic” column on the chart. Once you have gone through all of the items, count up the items in each column and let the students compare which column has more items in it.

Activity 3: Magnetic Treasure Hunt

Place some magnetic items (jar lids, jingle bells, paperclips, screws, washers, nails, etc.) in your sand table. Then let students use a magnet to see if they can find the magnetic items by lifting them out of the sand with a large magnet. You can let the students see how many they can find or tell them exactly how many objects they need to find on their “treasure hunt”.

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