



Pre-Visit Activities

Pre-Kindergarten



Activities

These activities are intended for use before your visit to the Virginia Air and Space Center. It is beneficial for the students to have some prior knowledge about the content area covered in the program. All of the activities can be tailored to your specific classroom needs, and the procedures listed are suggestions for teaching.

Activity 1: Play with Magnets in the classroom

Set up a center in your classroom that allows students to explore and experiment with magnets. Use cookie sheets and any kind of magnets (letters, numbers, shapes, decorative) in the center for the children to manipulate. Let the students feel the attraction of the magnet to the cookie sheet and the repelling of the magnets when placed against each other.

Activity 2: Paperclip Games

Set up a center in your classroom for paperclip games. Place various magnets in a container and have two cups of paperclips. Place large paperclips in one cup and small paperclips in another cup. Let the students see how many large paperclips each magnet can lift up out of the cup. The magnet that lifts the most paperclips is the strongest magnet. Then have them do the same with the small paperclips. For a challenge let the students try rubbing one of the paperclips against one of the magnets and then they can try to lift another paperclip with their “magnetized” paperclip.

Resources

Books

What Magnets Can Do Allan Fowler (**Rookie Read-About Science**) **1995.**

Magnets: Pulling Together, Pushing Apart (Amazing Science) Natalie M. Rosinsky and Sheree Boyd **2004.**

What Makes a Magnet? (Let's-Read-and-Find... Science 2) Franklyn M. Branley and True Kelley **1996.**

Magnets (All Aboard Science Reader) Anne Schreiber and Adrian C. Sinnott **2003.**

Magnets (Simply Science series) Darlene R. Stille **2001.**

Magnets (First Step Nonfiction) Robin Nelson **2004.**

Places

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**Many posters, lithographs and activities are available through the ERC. Please come in, call or e-mail your requests.

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