



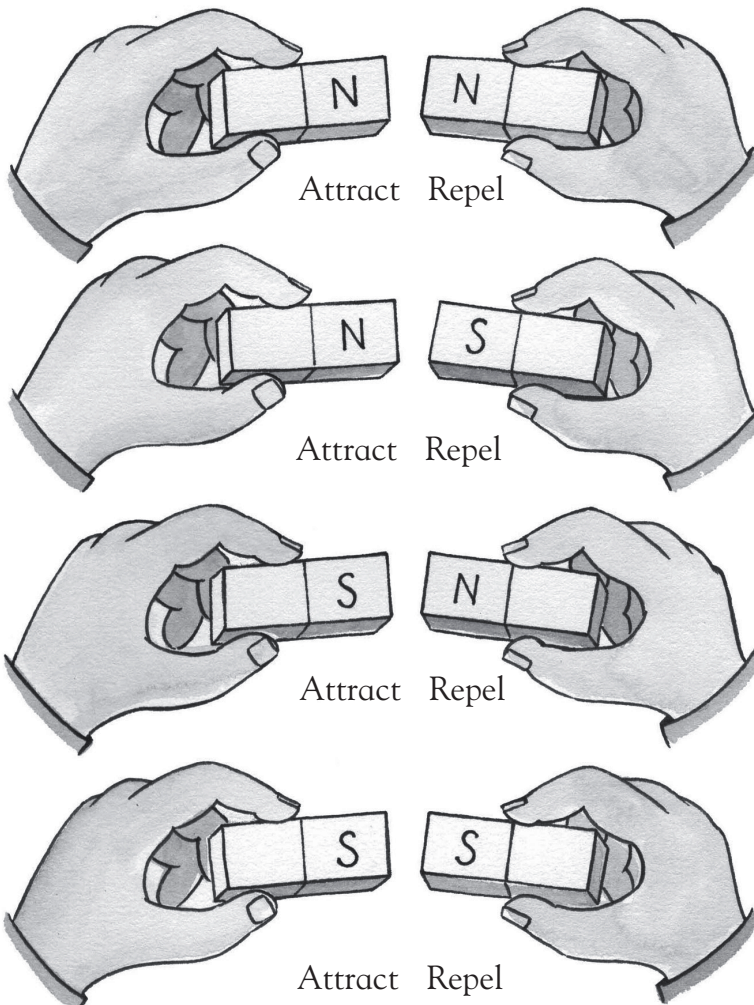
Attract or repel?

Background knowledge

On every magnet, the *magnetic poles* are where the force of magnetism is strongest. The north pole of one magnet will always attract the south pole of another magnet. If two south poles or two north poles are placed near one another, they will *repel* each other. When two magnets repel, they push away from one another. Earth is a gigantic magnet—it has a magnetic north and south pole.

Science activity

Look at the pairs of magnets in the pictures. Which pairs will attract each other? Which pairs will repel each other? Circle your answers.



Science investigation

Obtain 3–4 lifesaver-shaped magnets, and a dowel or pencil that will fit through the magnets' openings. Place the dowel vertically at a base of styrofoam or balsa wood. Try stacking the magnets in different ways on the dowel. Record and explain all of your observations.



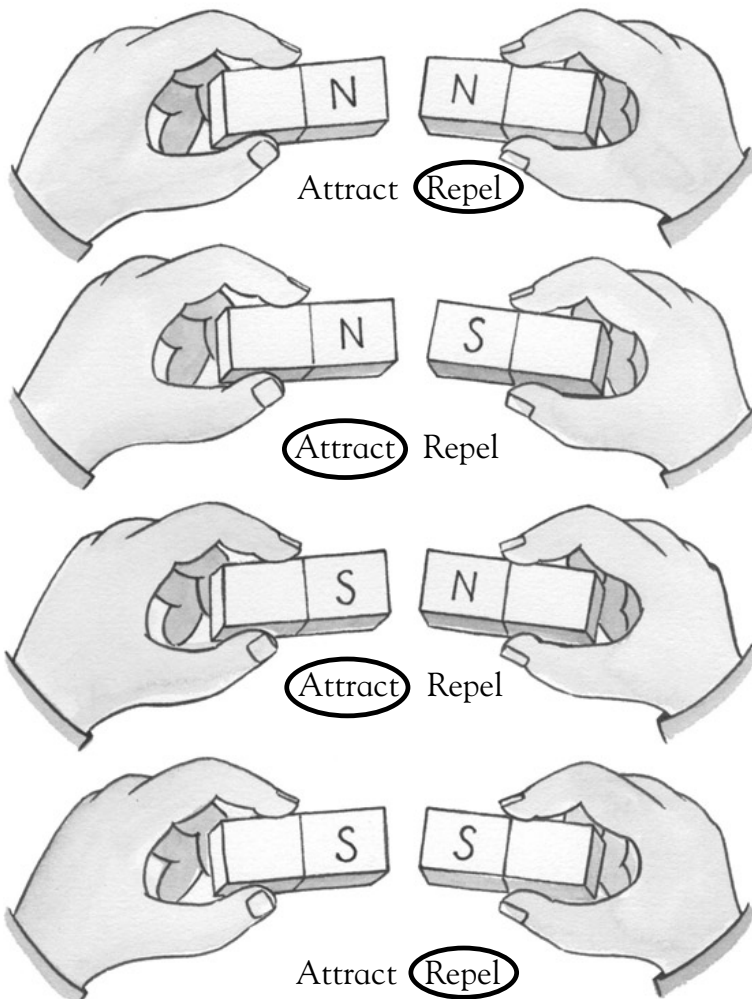
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Science activity

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Science investigation

The magnets will either attract or repel when placed on the dowel. When they repel, they look as if they're "floating." As more magnets are added to the dowel, the distance between repelling magnets decreases due to the pull of gravity.