



Key Vocabulary

force	movement caused by the strength or energy of an object
power	the strength, force or speed at which something moves or travels
surface	the outside part of an object
contact	touching between two objects
repel	to force something away or back from another object
attract	to cause something to come towards another object
material	what an object is made out of
friction	a force between two objects, trying to slide past each other

What are magnets?

A magnet is an object that produces a magnetic field, which can cause certain types of metal such as iron and nickel to be attracted towards it. A magnetic field is an invisible field which, when an object is within its range, causes attraction.



How do magnets work?

In many cases, for an object to move physical contact has to be caused between two objects to generate force to move the object. However, magnetic forces can be generated without physical contact.

The end of each magnet is called a pole. There is a north pole, and a south pole. These poles are what create the force that attracts and repels objects.

Only opposite poles are able to attract each other. Therefore, for a magnet to attract something, the north pole must face the south pole. If the north pole were facing another north pole, or a south pole facing another south pole, the two magnets would repel each other.

