



STATIC ELECTRICITY EXPERIMENTS

MATERIALS:

Tissue Paper Balloon
Scissors Salt & Pepper

VOCABULARY:

Force	Electricity	Static Electricity	Charge
Electrons	Positive	Negative	Attract
Repel	Neutral	Hydrometeors	Molecules

TISSUE PAPER EXPERIMENT DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut the tissue paper pieces into small shapes, such as hearts, stars, etc.
2. Lay the shapes on a flat surface, like a table.
3. Blow up the balloon and tie it closed.
4. Rub the balloon on your hair to build up a charge.
5. Hold the balloon near the tissue paper shapes. The shapes should move and try to cling to the balloon.



SALT & PEPPER EXPERIMENT DIRECTIONS:

1. Sprinkle the salt and pepper on a flat surface, like a plate or a table.
2. Blow up the balloon and tie it closed.
3. Rub the balloon on your hair to build up a charge.
4. Hold the balloon near the salt and pepper. The pepper should jump up and attach to the balloon.

WATER BENDER EXPERIMENT DIRECTIONS:

1. Blow up the balloon and tie it closed.
2. Rub the balloon on your hair to build up a charge.
3. Turn on the facet in a sink to get a thin stream of water flowing.
4. Hold the balloon near the stream of water but not touching it. The stream of water should bend towards the balloon.

THE STEAM BEHIND THE EXPERIMENT:

Static electricity is an imbalance of electric charges within or on the surface of a material or between materials. The charge remains until it is able to move away by means of an electric current or electrical discharge. Static electricity is named in contrast with current electricity, where the electric charge flows through an electrical conductor or space, and transmits energy.

When you rub the balloon on your hair, electrons build up a negative charge on the balloon. These electrons can then pull light and positively charged objects!

Lightning is caused by a buildup of static electricity inside a storm cloud. Moving around inside the cloud are tiny water molecules called hydrometeors. These hydrometeors are colliding and bumping into each other—creating a static electric charge.

MAKE IT AWESOME:

Try making other objects move with the charged balloon, such as: other balloons, your hair, styrofoam cups, etc.

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