Nova’s Magnetic Adventure

Learning objective: To identify and describe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials.

Read the text carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand the science words. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Nova the owl is a curious scientist. Today, she is exploring magnets in her workshop. Nova picks up two magnets. She notices that each magnet has two ends called poles: a North Pole and a South Pole. When she puts two North Poles together, they push away from each other. This is called repelling. When she puts a North Pole and a South Pole together, they pull towards each other. This is called attracting.

Nova wonders which items in her room are magnetic. She tries to pick up a wooden pencil, a plastic button, and an iron paperclip. The magnet does not touch the wood or the plastic. However, the magnet pulls the iron paperclip towards it with an invisible force. Nova learns that magnets attract materials made of iron and steel. She records her findings in her notebook. She knows that all magnets have a magnetic field, which is the area where the force works. Nova is happy she solved the puzzle. She loves learning how magnets work!

Word bank: attract · repel · pole · metal · force · magnetic

1. What are the two ends of a magnet called? (2 marks)

2. Name one material that Nova found was magnetic. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the magnet did not pick up the plastic button? (2 marks)

4. If you put two South Poles together, what do you think will happen? (2 marks)

5. Why is it useful for people to know which materials are magnetic? Give one reason. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a magnet picking up an iron paperclip. Label the North Pole and the South Pole.

Extension challenge: Look around your house. Can you find three things that a magnet might stick to and three things it will not stick to?