

● Chapter 1: What is a Magnet?

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Teacher Notes

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Magnets are objects that exert an invisible force called magnetic force. Magnetic force is also called magnetism.

Magnets

- Most magnets are made of iron, nickel or cobalt. Note: not all iron, nickel and cobalt objects produce magnetic force
- Magnets will attract or repel other magnets
- Magnets can be straight/rectangular, horseshoe-shaped, disk-shapes, rings or cylinders
- The strongest magnets are made of rare Earth metals. The strongest and most commonly used rare Earth metal magnet is Neodymium

The strength of a magnet's magnetic force depends on:

1. The size of the magnet. Larger magnets exert a stronger magnetic force
2. What the magnet is made of. Magnets made of neodymium are the strongest.
3. Distance from the magnet. Magnetic force decreases as you move away from a magnet.

Magnetic Objects

- Objects that are attracted to magnets are magnetic objects.
- Magnetic objects do NOT exert magnetic force
- Most magnetic objects are made of iron, nickel or cobalt
- Some alloys, such as steel, are magnetic
- Lodestone (magnetite) is a magnetic rock