

SCIENCE · GRADES 3–4

# Magnets and Magnetism

What sticks to a magnet — and why

## Three quick rules

1) Magnets attract iron, nickel, cobalt and steel. (Steel has iron in it.) 2) Magnets do NOT attract gold, silver, copper, plastic, wood, glass or aluminum. 3) Magnets have two ends called POLES — north (N) and south (S). Opposite poles attract; same poles repel.

## Predict — magnetic or not?

Magnetic	Not magnetic	

**Cut out and sort:** iron nail, 1¢ coin, paper clip, pencil, rubber band, steel screwdriver, aluminum foil, fridge magnet, drink can, pair of scissors, plastic ruler, key (most modern keys)

## Investigate

1. Test each object with a magnet. Were your predictions right?
2. Why might some keys be magnetic but not others? (Hint: they're not all the same metal.)
3. What happens when you turn one magnet around and bring it close to another? Try it.
4. Earth has magnetic poles too. What invention uses this fact?

