

Static Electricity Experiments

They say opposites attract and that couldn't be more true with these fun, static electricity experiments. Learn about positively and negatively charged particles using a few basic items, can you control if they will be attracted or unattracted to each other?

YOU WILL NEED:

1. Two inflated balloons with string attached
2. Your hair
3. Aluminum can
4. Woolen fabric

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Rub the 2 balloons one by one against the woolen fabric, then try moving the balloons together, do they want to or are they unattracted to each other?
2. Rub 1 of the balloons back and forth on your hair then slowly pull it away. Ask someone nearby what they can see or if there's nobody else around try looking in a mirror.
3. Put the aluminium can on its side on a table, after rubbing the balloon on your hair again hold the balloon close to the can and watch as it rolls towards it, slowly move the balloon away from the can and it will follow.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Rubbing the balloons against the woolen fabric or your hair creates static electricity. This involves negatively charged particles (electrons) jumping to positively charged objects. When you rub the balloons against your hair or the fabric they become negatively charged, they have taken some of the electrons from the hair/fabric and left them positively charged.

