

AMAZING MAGNETS

by Johanna Knox

Magnets are used in many different places for many different reasons. Magnets can do some amazing things!

Magnets at home and school

At home, you might use a magnet to pick up pins or paper clips or to stick pictures and shopping lists on the fridge.

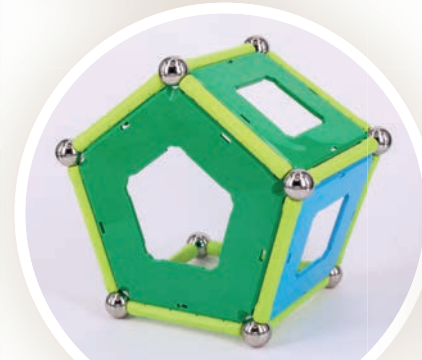
Fridges and freezers have magnetic strips in their doors to keep them closed so their cold air stays inside.

These metal knives are held in place by a magnetic strip.



At school, you might use magnetic letters to make words on a whiteboard. Some whiteboard dusters have a magnet inside so that the duster will stick to the board.

Some games use magnets to join pieces together or keep pieces in place.



A magnetic construction set



A magnetic chess set



Magnets at work

Many factories and businesses use magnets.

Factories that make food use powerful magnets to keep the food safe. They place magnets close to the food. If any metal gets into the food accidentally, it will be attracted to the magnet. Then it can be removed.

Magnets are used at recycling centres to separate metal from other rubbish.

A magnetic strip attracts metal objects at a recycling centre.



A giant magnet at work in a scrap-metal yard

Scrap-metal yards use giant magnets to lift large pieces of metal. Sometimes they lift whole cars!

Magnets on the move

Magnets are often used to attract objects, but they can also be used to repel objects. A really interesting example of this is a maglev train.



A maglev train has magnets underneath the carriages, and it travels on a magnetic track. But the magnets on the train and the track have the same poles. This means they repel each other. The train is pushed up off the track so that it floats in the air. How amazing!

MAGLEV

Maglev is short for **magnetic levitation**. Levitation is when something lifts up and floats in the air.



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Published 2020 by the Ministry of Education,

PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.

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Enquiries should be made to the publisher.

ISBN 978 1 77663 709 6 (online)

ISSN 2463 4174 (online)

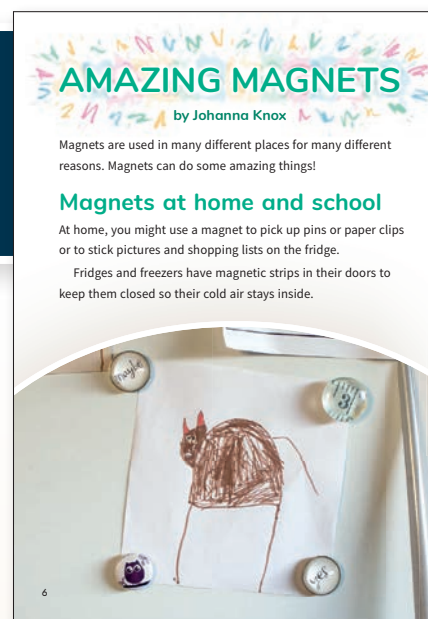
Publishing Services: Lift Education E Tū

Editor: David Chadwick

Designer: Simon Waterfield

Literacy Consultant: Dr Kay Hancock

Consulting Editors: Hōne Apanui and Emeli Sione



JUNIOR JOURNAL 61

Curriculum learning areas

English
Science
Technology

Reading year level

Year 3

Keywords

discovery, inventions, maglev, magnetism, magnet, metal, recycling, science, scrap metal, technology