Forces and Magnets

Strand: Physics

Key vocabulary

Attract	To bring an object closer to another object. A magnet attracts objects made of certain metals.
Contact force	A force that needs physical contact (touch) to act.
Friction	Friction is a force between two surfaces that are sliding, or trying to slide, across each other.
Force	A push or pull effect that something has on something else.
Gravity	The force which pulls things to the ground.
Magnet	A piece of iron or other material which attracts magnetic materials towards it.
Non-contact force	A force that does not need physical contact (touch) to act.
Pull	A force that moves something towards you.
Push	A force that moves something away from you.
Repel	A force that pushes an object away from another object.

Did you know?

Magnets are used in lots of things we use in everyday life. Compasses, toys, medical equipment, microwaves and earphones all use magnets to work.

Significant People



William Gilbert
(Magnetism theorist)

Useful websites

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zw889qt

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvr3nrd/articles/zxqrdxs

Sticky knowledge

- Most forces need contact to work, but some (like magnetic forces) do not.
- Friction occurs when two surfaces move across each other. It slows objects down.
- Rough surfaces create more friction and smooth surfaces create less friction.
- Magnets attract materials that contain iron (a type of metal).
- Magnets have two sides, they are called poles. One is the North Pole and the other is the South Pole.
- When opposite poles are facing each other, the two magnets will attract.
- When two poles, that are the same face each other, the two magnets will repel.

Exciting books





