



Janice VanCleave's Magnets: Mind-boggling Experiments You Can Turn Into Science Fair Projects

By Janice VanCleave

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- * How does a compass work?
- * What is a magnetic field?
- * How can you make a magnet with electricity?

Janice VanCleave's Magnets includes 20 simple and fun experiments that allow you to discover the answers to these and other fascinating questions about magnets, plus dozens of additional suggestions for developing your own science fair projects. Learn about magnetic poles using a bar magnet, paper, and string; about magnetic force fields with a compass, a pencil, and a sheet of paper; and much more. All experiments use inexpensive household materials and involve a minimum of preparation and clean up. Children ages 8-12 Also available in the Spectacular Science Projects Series: Janice VanCleave's Animals Janice VanCleave's Earthquakes Janice VanCleave's Electricity Janice VanCleave's Gravity Janice VanCleave's Machines Janice VanCleave's Molecules Janice VanCleave's Microscopes and Magnifying Lenses Janice VanCleave's Volcanoes Janice VanCleave's Weather

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 3-6-This collection of 20 science demonstrations illustrates basic properties of electricity, from static electricity to simple circuits and eletromagneticism. They all use household materials and include a brief explanation of what happened, some ideas for additional experiments, and a section called "show time" for science fairs. Experimental details are clear and written at a basic level. However, other than a clever use for clothspins in building circuits, most of the material is old hat. A bigger problem here, though, is in the packaging that promises "cook-book experiments" guaranteed not to fail. If only "real" science were that easy. Moreover, most science-fair judges downgrade projects they believe are basically copied from books such as this one. Generic black-and-white illustrations are scattered throughout the text; there is a glossary of terms but no list for further reading. Robert Gardner's *Electricity and Magnetism* (Holt, 1994) is a better book on the same subject.

Alan Newman, American Chemical Society, Washington,
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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-7. VanCleave, a prolific author of science project books, offers 20 experiments with electricity as part of her Spectacular Science Project series. A discussion of how to create and present a successful science fair project precedes the clearly spelled out projects, which contain a sample problem (How does matter become electrically charged? Can a magnet produce an electric current?); a list of materials (including "adult helper" when warranted); step-by-step procedures; a summary of the guaranteed results; the reason(s) why the results were achieved; suggestions for making small changes and achieving new results; help in formatting one's own experiment; and suggestions for getting further information. The experiments move from the simple, which do not require the use of batteries, to those that require small batteries, sizes AA, AAA, C, or D. An appendix shows how to make strips of aluminum foil that can be used to form the electrical circuits that are part of some of the experiments. By encouraging students to move beyond the basic problems (with adult supervision), the author encourages them to be creative in designing science fair projects. Glossary. *Sally Estes*

From the Publisher

A hands-on science experiment book for children that makes learning about magnets educational and enjoyable. Features 20 simple experiments kids can do at home using everyday materials. The "Show Time!" sections offer abundant suggestions on developing a topic into a bona fide science fair project and the sections titled "Let's Explore" encourage them to experiment further. Packed with illustrations.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patricia Nebeker:

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