

Static electricity

This experiment is a great way to spark interest in static electricity through hands-on activities

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 1 inflated balloon per group
- Woollen or synthetic fabric such as a school jumper
- Small pieces of paper or confetti

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Rub the balloon vigorously back and forth against the fabric for about 30 seconds to transfer electrons from the fabric to the balloon, giving the balloon a negative charge.
- 2 Hold charged balloon over small pieces of paper or confetti. The pieces should jump up and stick to the balloon because opposite charges attract, i.e. the negatively charged balloon attracts the positively charged paper pieces.
- 3 Students can try sticking their balloons to a wall.

For a fun variation, students can rub the balloon on their hair and then slowly pull it away. They should see their hair stand up and reach towards the balloon due to the attraction between the negatively charged balloon and their positively charged hair.



Poses questions based on observations and information to investigate cause and effect



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