

Test Date _____ Name _____

Magnets *Facts to Know*

Magnets exert a *force* that cannot be seen. Magnets attract or repel things made out of iron, steel, nickel, or cobalt.

Magnetism is a force that is all around us, and we use it every day. Some examples are: refrigerator doors, parts of computers, doorbells, televisions, electric can openers, junkyards, and even parts of toys.

Magnets can be made out of metals with iron or steel, and can also be found naturally in stones called *lodestone* or *magnetite*.

Magnetic force is strongest at the two ends of a magnet, which we call the *magnetic poles*. The *magnetic field* is strongest at the two poles.

Our Earth is like a great big magnet, and the magnetic force is strongest near the North Pole and the South Pole. The ends of magnets are also called the north and south poles.

This is the law of magnetic force: *Unlike poles attract, but like poles repel*. "Attract" means to pull together. "Repel" means to push away.

We can use magnets to tell us what direction we're going when we use a *compass*, because the needle will always point north. Using a compass together with a map to find your way is called *orienteering*.

Vocabulary

magnet- a piece of metal that attracts other metal

magnetism- a force that cannot be seen that pushes and pulls metal objects.

Lodestone – natural stone with magnetic properties

repel- to push away

attract- to pull

magnetic field- the push and pull surrounding a magnet

pole- where the magnetic pull is the strongest

Magnetic North and South- the magnetic pull of the Earth

compass- an instrument used for finding North, South, East, and West