



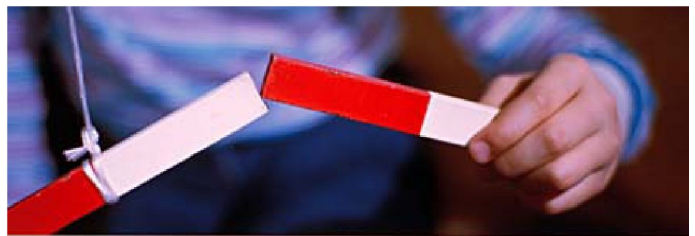
You may have used a magnet to pick up paper clips, thumbtacks, or pins. Did you know that farmers use magnets to help prevent their cows from getting sick? Cows eat grass. However, cows also swallow nails and other pieces of metal that are in the grass. Over time, this metal can get trapped in the cow's stomach.



To keep this from happening, the farmer makes the cow swallow a large, smooth magnet. The cow magnet stays in the cow's stomach. The magnet attracts the metal swallowed by the cow. The magnet keeps the metal from getting trapped in the lining of the cow's stomach. One cow magnet can last an entire lifetime.

A cow magnet attracts any metal that contains iron. A **magnet** is a material that attracts iron or something that contains iron. Magnets also attract another metal called nickel.

Magnets can attract other magnets. They can also repel, or push away, other magnets. The way two magnets act depends on how you bring them together. Each magnet has two poles. One pole is called the north pole. The other pole is called the south pole.



If you bring two opposite poles near each other, they will attract each other. For example, a

north pole will attract a south pole. However, if you bring the same poles near each other, they will repel each other. For example, a north pole will repel another north pole.

If you have two cow magnets, you can find out which two poles are the same. They will repel each other. Don't worry if you don't have cow magnets. You can do this with any two magnets, even round ones.