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Electric & Magnetic Fields Activity for Kids

Simple Motor DIY

Duration: **20 min** Difficulty: **Easy** Cost: **$0 to $10**

Use a magnetic field to make a simple motor!

Material List

- 1 AA Battery
- 1 Pack Neodymium Disc Magnets
- 1 Copper Wire about 20 cm

Instructions

1. Stack the magnets on the negative side of the battery (flat side) and place it on the table.
2. Bend the copper wire into a heart shape.
3. Place the point of the heart on the positive end of the battery.
4. Adjust it so that the ends of the wire lightly touch the magnets.
5. Watch it spin!
6. Once you get the hang of it try other shapes!

How It Works

The electric current from the battery flows through the wire, generating a magnetic field. The field from the magnets interacts with the magnetic field from the wire. This applies a force on the wire which causes it to move. Scientists call this design a homopolar motor.