



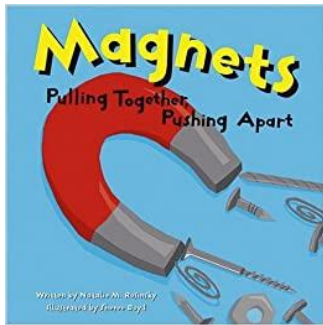
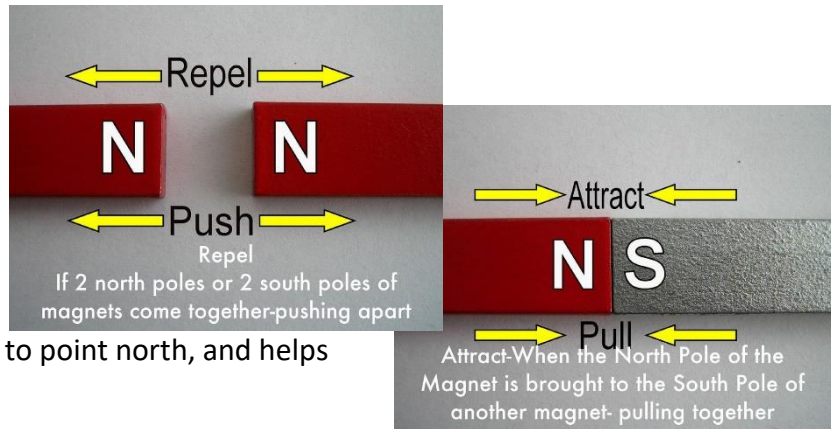
## MAGNETISM: MAKING a WATER COMPASS (3-5)

### The SCIENCE of MAGNETISM:

A **magnet** is a piece of iron that attracts or repels other metal objects.

The **poles** are the two strongest points of a magnet and are located at opposite ends. NORTH and SOUTH

A **compass** is a tool that uses a magnet to point north, and helps people find their way.



### LITERACY CONNECTION:

*Magnets: Pulling Together, Pushing Apart* by Natalie Rosinsky includes a variety of fun at-home projects using magnets.

Don't have this book at home? There are many [online resources](#) for books on magnets!

### ACTIVITY: WATER COMPASS

Materials: small bar magnet / refrigerator magnet, foam/Styrofoam, water, bowl, paperclip

1. Draw a picture of an arrow, a fish, or whatever shape you want and cut it out
2. Rub a paperclip in the same direction across the magnet 50 times
3. Slide the paper clip on to one end of the foam shape
4. Float the "fish" in a bowl of water and watch it line up north to south all by itself!



**EXPLORE:** What happens if you put a magnet near your compass? What about different metal objects? If you were on a ship, would you want metal objects near your compass?

For step-by-step instructions, watch the video at: [Water Compass STEM Activity](#)

*This at-home educational activity is from the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County's literacy-based Stories & STEM program. Stories & STEM is made possible with support from Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc., which receives significant funding from the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.*

*Having fun? Send pictures or video links of you and your Stories & STEM projects to [csharkey@literacyabc.org](mailto:csharkey@literacyabc.org)*