

**PHYSICS  
FORM 5  
MAGNETS**

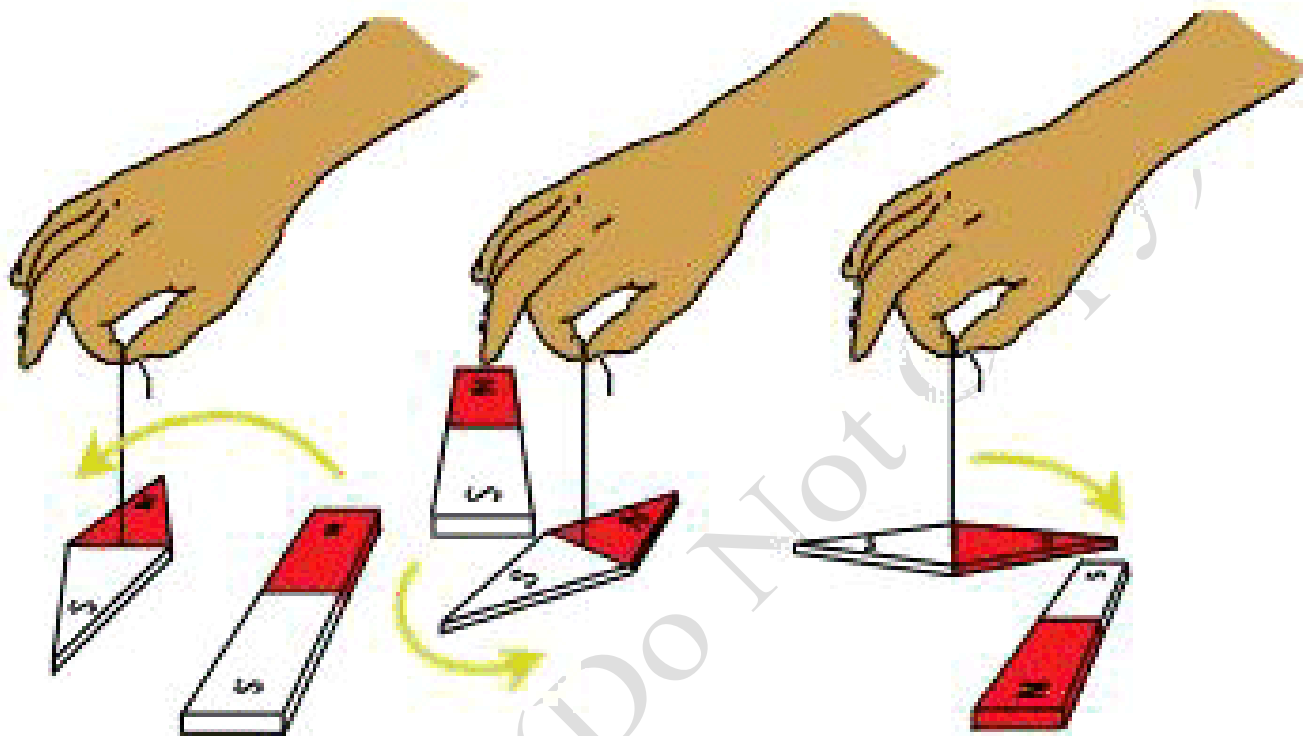
Magnets are objects that produce a type of energy called magnetic fields. All magnets possess a property called polarity--that is, a magnet's power of attraction is strongest at its opposite ends, usually called the north and south poles. The north and south poles attract each other, but north repels north and south repels south. All magnets attract iron.



R. N.

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**Experiment to Determine the Poles of a Magnet (I)**



**Method:**

1. The unknown magnet was suspended using a paper holder, cotton thread and a wooden rod. (The materials used for suspending the magnet does not change the magnetic force of the magnet.)
2. A magnet with known poles was obtained.
3. The north pole of the known magnet was brought near to one of the ends of the suspended magnet. (A precaution is taken to ensure that the magnets do not touch.)

**Discussion:**

If the end of the suspended magnet moves away from the north pole of the known magnet then that end of the suspended magnet is a north pole.

If the end of the suspended magnet moves towards the North Pole then that end is the South Pole.

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**Experiment to Determine the Poles of a Magnet (II)**

Method:

1. The magnet with the unknown poles was suspended as in experiment I.
2. The magnet was then allowed to come to rest.

Discussion:

The end of the suspended magnet which points towards the geographic north pole (north pole of the earth) is called the north seeking pole. This is shortened the north pole of the magnet.

The end of the magnet that points to the geographic south pole is called the south seeking pole (shortened to south pole).

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