

# The Magic of Static *(cont.)*

## *Station 1: Popping Paper*

### Materials

- clear plastic box
- about 40 paper circles from a hole punch

### Setup

- Put the paper circles on the table top and put the clear plastic box over them.

### How to Do the Test

1. Have one person hold the plastic box down over the paper circles.
2. Rub the top of the plastic box with your hand as fast as you can.



### Watch to See What Happens

1. Do any circles begin to jump? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are there any circles standing on edge? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do any circles leap up and hang from the box? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are there any sounds being made? \_\_\_\_\_
5. If you heard sounds, what did they sound like? \_\_\_\_\_

**Try something new and then make a picture of what you discovered.**

# The Magic of Static *(cont.)*

## Station 2: *Jumping Peanuts*

### Materials

- inflated balloon
- handful of Styrofoam packing peanuts
- wool duster or wool cloth

### Setup

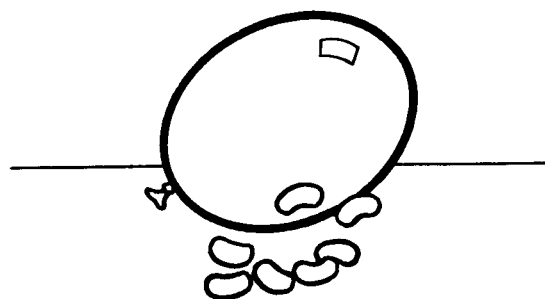
- Put a balloon, wool duster or cloth, and Styrofoam packing peanuts on the table.

### How to Do the Test

1. Rub the balloon with the wool duster.
2. Hold the balloon near the peanuts.

### Watch to See What Happens

1. Do the peanuts jump on the balloon? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Shake the balloon gently. Do the peanuts stick to it? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What happens if you pull or push the peanuts around on the balloon?  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Try something new and then make a picture of what you discovered.**

# The Magic of Static *(cont.)*

## Station 3: *Weird Water*

### Materials

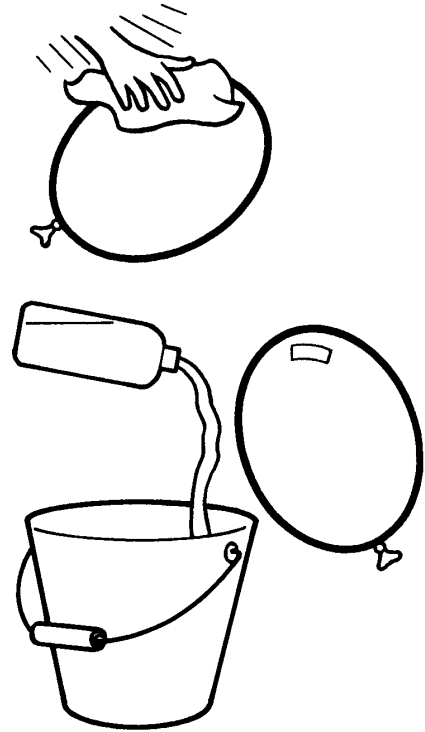
- inflated balloon
- wool duster or wool cloth
- bottle of water
- bucket or basin
- towels

### Setup

- Put all the materials on the table.

### How to Do the Test

1. Rub the balloon with the wool duster.
2. Pour the water slowly into the bucket. Hold the balloon near the water.



### Watch to See What Happens

1. Did the water run straight down from the bottle? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do this same test two more times and see what happens. Be sure to refill the bottle and to rub the balloon with the duster each time. Tell what happens each time.

\_\_\_\_\_

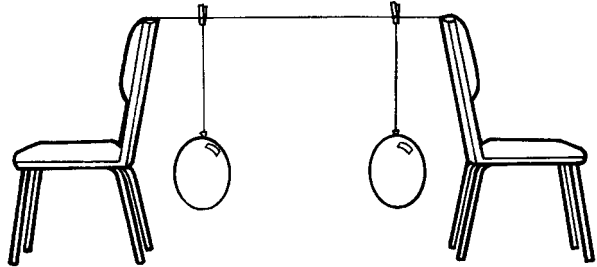
**Try something new and then make a picture of what you discovered.**

# The Magic of Static *(cont.)*

## Station 4: Dancing Balloons

### Materials

- 2 inflated balloons of different colors, each on a string
- wool duster or wool cloth
- 3 feet (90 cm) string
- 2 clamp-on clothespins
- 2 chairs



### Setup

- Place the chairs close together and stretch the string taut between them. Put the clothespins on it two feet (60 cm) apart. Hang the balloons from the clothespins so they are level with each other.

### How to Do the Test

1. Rub one balloon with the wool duster.

### Watch to See What Happens

1. What happens after only one balloon was rubbed with the duster?

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2. What happens if both balloons are rubbed?

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3. What happens when you put your hand between the balloons?

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**Try something new and then make a picture of what you discovered.**



# The Magic of Static *(cont.)*

## *Answer Key*

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### Station 1

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#### **Popping Paper**

Some of the circles jump from the paper to the plastic box. Others jump back and forth, while still others remain on the paper but stand on edge. There is a popping sound made as the circles hit the plastic box. If left alone for a while, the circles lose the static charge but can be reactivated by rubbing the box again.

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### Station 2

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#### **Jumping Peanuts**

If the charged balloon is held about three inches (7.5 cm) above the Styrofoam peanuts, they will leap up and cling to it. When shaken gently, the peanuts continue to adhere to the balloon. They can be chased around the balloon when another charged peanut on the balloon is pushed toward them.

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### Station 3

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#### **Weird Water**

The stream of water will bend away from the charged balloon when it is held about one inch (2.5 cm) from it.

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### Station 4

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#### **Dancing Balloons**

When both hanging balloons are charged with the duster, they will repel each other. If a hand is placed between the balloons, they will be attracted to the hand but will move away (repelling) from each other when the hand is removed.