



Homeschool Science Experiment

Name: _____

Observing Static Electricity with a Balloon and Small Paper Bits

Date: _____

QUESTION

Can a charged balloon attract small pieces of paper using static electricity?

HYPOTHESIS

If I rub a balloon on my hair or wool, then it will attract small pieces of paper because it will become charged with static electricity.

MATERIALS

- Balloon
- Small pieces of paper (confetti or tiny squares work well)
- Wool cloth or dry hair
- Table or other flat surface

PROCEDURE

1. Cut or tear paper into small bits and place them on a flat surface.
2. Rub the balloon on your hair or a wool cloth for 20–30 seconds.
3. Hold the balloon near (but not touching) the paper bits.
4. Observe what happens.
5. Try moving the balloon closer and farther away.
6. Repeat the experiment and record your observations.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Rubbing the balloon transfers electrons between the balloon and your hair or wool. This gives the balloon a charge. The charged balloon attracts the neutral paper bits, causing them to jump up and stick to it.

OBSERVATIONS / RESULTS

Trial	What did you observe? (Be as detailed as you can.)
1	
2	
3	

CONCLUSION

Did your results support your hypothesis? Why or why not?

What did you learn from this experiment?

EXTENSION (Try this!)

- Try using a different material to rub the balloon (silk, sweater, or microfiber cloth). Does it change the results?
- Try different sizes of paper bits. Does size matter?
- Can you make the paper bits stick to the balloon and lift them from the table?



SAFETY REMINDER: Do not use near water or with very young children without supervision.