

# Balloon Attraction



## Materials

- 2 or more balloons
- String
- A sweater with wool in it
- A shallow pan of water
- Small torn pieces of paper

## Procedure

1. Blow up the balloons and tie closed with the string, leaving a tail.
2. Charge the balloons by rubbing against the wool sweater.
3. Bring the balloons close to each other and watch the effect.
4. Bring one balloon close to the water in the pan without touching the water. What effect does the balloon have on the water?
5. Bring the other balloon close to the pieces of paper. What effect does the balloon have on the paper?
6. Experiment by bringing the balloons close to other objects. Which objects are attracted, and which are repelled? Remember to recharge the balloons as necessary.

*Rubbing a balloon on a sweater causes it to be charged with electrons, which are negatively charged. The balloon will attract positively charged items like paper or your hair, and will repel other negatively charged items like another balloon. The energy in charged objects is called static electricity.*

