FOSS Magnetism and Electricity Module
Glossary
2005 Edition

Attract: To pull toward one another, as opposite poles of two magnets pull toward one another. (SS, TG)

Battery: A source of electricity with more than one cell. (TG)

Circuit: A pathway for the flow of electricity. (TG)

Circuit base: Something that holds many components needed to build a circuit. (TG)

Closed circuit: A complete circuit through which electricity flows. (TG)

Code: A set of signals that represents letters or words for sending messages. (TG)

Coil: Wire wound repeatedly around a central core. (TG)

Compass: An instrument that uses a freely moving magnetic needle to indicate direction. (SS)

Component: An individual item in a circuit. (TG)

Conductor: A substance, commonly a metal such as copper or aluminum, through which electricity will flow. (TG)

Core: The material around which a coil is wound. (TG)

Current: The flow of electricity through a conductor. (SS)

D-cell: A source of electricity; also known as a battery. (TG)

Detector: Something that helps you identify or locate something. (TG)

Electricity: A form of energy that can produce light, heat, and magnetism. (SS)

Electricity receiver: A component that uses the electricity from a source to make something happen. (TG)

Electricity source: Something that provides electric energy to make something happen. (TG)

Electromagnet: A piece of iron that becomes a temporary magnet when electricity flows through an insulated wire wrapped around it. (SS, TG)

Fahnstock clip: A metal clip that connects wires in a circuit. (TG)

Filament: The material in a light bulb (usually a thin wire) that glows when heated by an electric current. (SS, TG)

Force: A push or a pull. (TG)

Gap: The space between a steel strip and an electromagnet. (TG)

Graph: Something that organizes data visually to show a relationship between two things. (TG)

Induced magnetism: The influence of a permanent magnet's magnetic field on a piece of iron, which makes the iron act like a magnet. (TG)

Insulator: A material that prevents the flow of electricity, commonly plastic, rubber, glass, or air. (TG)

Intersection: The point at which two lines cross. (TG)

Key: A switch that completes the circuit in a telegraph system. (TG)

Lightning: A flash of light caused by a discharge of static electricity between two clouds or from a cloud to the Earth. (SS)

Lodestone: A form of the mineral magnetite that is naturally magnetic or has become magnetized. (SS)

Long-distance: Something that is far away. (TG)

Magnet: An object that sticks to iron. (TG)

Magnetism: A property of certain kinds of materials that causes them to attract iron or steel. (SS, TG)

Open circuit: An incomplete circuit through which electricity will not flow. (TG)

Parallel circuit: A circuit that splits into two or more pathways before coming together at the battery. (TG)

Patent: A document granting the right to take credit for an invention. (SS)

Pole: Either of two opposing forces or parts, such as the poles of a magnet. (SS)

Prediction: An educated guess based on data or previous experience. (TG)

Repel: To push away, as similar poles of two magnets push away from one another. (SS, TG)

Schematic diagram: A way to represent a circuit on a piece of paper. (TG)

Series circuit: A circuit with only one pathway for current flow. (TG)

Static electricity: Positive and negative electric charges that are separated from each other and are not moving. (SS)

Switch: A device used to open and close circuits. (TG)

Technology: Applying the results of scientific research. (TG)

Telegraph: A device for sending coded messages by signals produced by closing and opening an electric circuit. (TG)

Temporary magnet: A piece of iron that behaves like a magnet when it is touching a permanent magnet. (TG)