

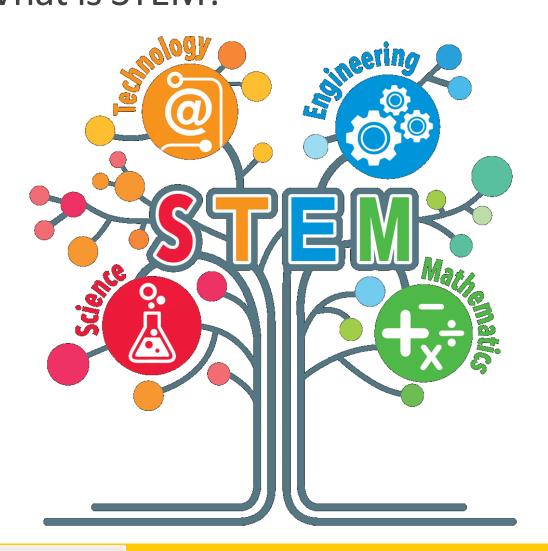
What's it like at the JCB Academy?

https://jcb-academy.com/





STEM Challenge What is STEM?





STEM stands for -

Science

Technology

Engineering

Mathematics

These subjects are linked directly to each other and this task will highlight your skills in each of these subject areas.



What is the cause of lightning?





We'll find out soon...

But it links closely to what we're looking at today:

STATIC ELECTRICITY!

Ready to have a go?

Static Electricity





What do I need...

1 balloon

1 duster cloth

1 polythene rod / hair comb

1 empty pop can

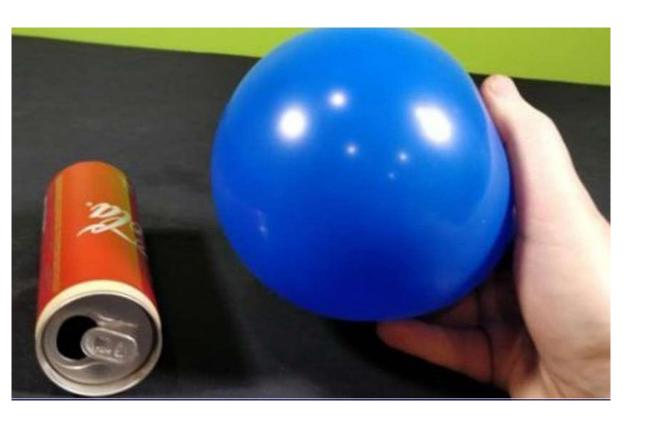
Lots of small bits of paper (hole punch circles are perfect)





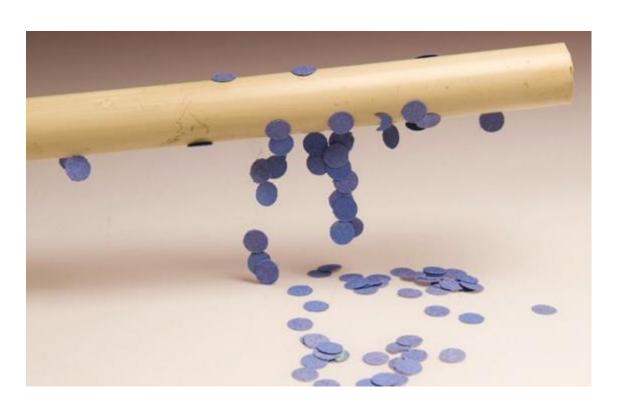
- 1. Blow up a balloon.
- 2. Rub it on your jumper.
- 3. Hold it close to your hair.
- 4. What happens?





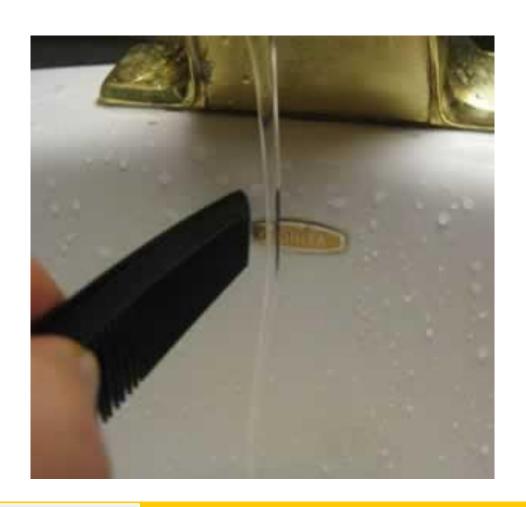
- 1. Take your balloon from experiment 1.
- 2. Lay the can on it's side and hold the balloon close.
- 3. Repeat from the other side.
- 4. What happens?





- 1. Rub the polythene rod up and down for 30 seconds with the duster cloth.
- 2. Hover the rod just above the small pieces of paper.
- 3. What happens?





- 1. Turn on the tap so there is a slow but steady stream of water.
- 2. Hold the rod from experiment 3 near the water stream.
- 3. What happens?

The Science bit!



You won't be surprised, that these are all caused by Static

Electricity!

So what is Static Electricity?

And what does this have to do with lightning?





Static Electricity

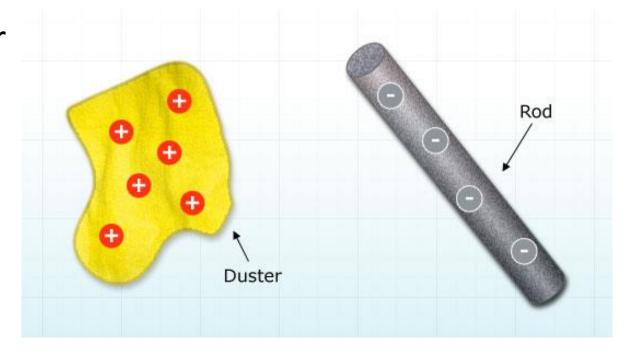
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Static means not moving.

So Static Electricity is electricity that isn't moving.

It is created when insulators rub together and 'electrons' move from one insulator to the other.

Electrons are negative, this means that the insulator that gains electrons becomes negative, and the other positive.

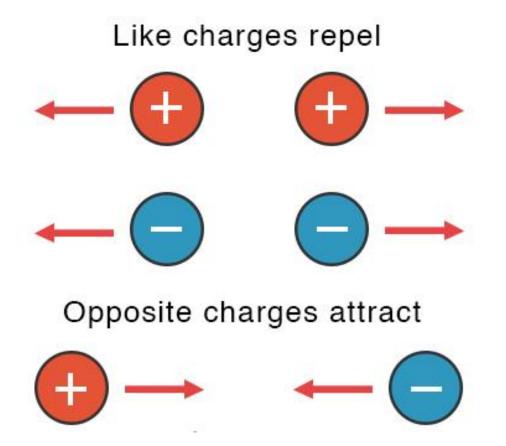


How does this explain what I saw?



Like charges repel (push each other away) and opposite charges attract.

This is what makes your hair, the paper pieces and the drinks can move.



And what about the lightning?

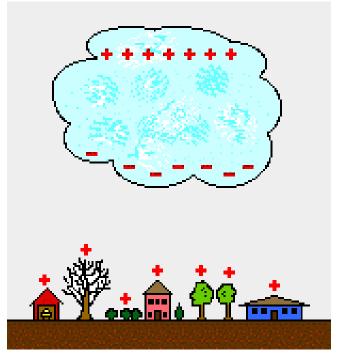


The clouds become really charged, much the same way as the balloon or the rod.

Eventually the charge is so great, that the electricity jumps through the air to the Earth.

This is what we see as a lightning bolt.





STEM Challenge

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What's next?

- Share your achievements
 - Send pictures or videos of your activities to us. Make sure its clear what school you are from.

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