

# STEM Exploration

## MAGNETIC ICE SKATER



Create an ice rink using a paper plate, then watch as your skater flies across the course using magnets!

### Materials Provided:

Paper Plate  
Skater Template  
Craft Stick  
Adhesive Magnets (2)

### Materials Needed:

Markers, Crayons

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. First, design your rink. Color or decorate your paper plate on one side to show an outdoor scene, ice skating rink, or any other “course” you’d like your skater to move through. You can add animals, trees, houses, other skaters -- anything you choose!
2. Next, color your ice skater. When you’re finished, attach one of your magnets to the **back side** of the skater by peeling off the sticker on your magnet.



3. Attach the second magnet to one side of your craft stick, very close to one end (this will become the top of your “wand”).
4. If you’d like, you can color or decorate your wand with markers, stickers or washi tape at this point.
5. To make your skater move, lay him/her down on the decorated side of your plate. Hold the wand, with the magnet facing up, against the bottom of your plate, and move it around until the magnets “catch,” and your skater is attached to your wand, with the plate in between!
6. Move the wand around, while keeping it attached to the plate, to make your skater dance across the ice!

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

A **magnet** is any object that creates a magnetic field -- meaning that it creates an invisible field around it which has an effect on other magnetic objects, and either **attracts** or **repels** them.

All magnets have two **poles**, one at each end. These are called the north pole and the south pole.

Two magnets will attract each other, or pull together, when one’s north pole is facing the other’s south pole (have you ever heard the phrase “opposites attract?”) Two magnets will repel or push against each other when their poles are the same -- if a north pole meets a north pole, or a south pole meets a south pole!

To learn more about magnets, visit <https://www.explainthatstuff.com/magnetism.html>.