



STATIC ELECTRICITY

Has your hair stood up in the air when you took off your toque? Or have you pulled out clothes from the drier and found your socks are stuck to a sweater? This is all due to static electricity. Let's discover how static electricity works.

This week's activity: Butterfly and Balloon Experiment

Butterfly and Balloon Experiment

Suggested materials:

- Cardboard
- Construction paper
- Tissue Paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Balloon



Directions:

1. Make the body of a butterfly using construction paper and cut the wings out of tissue paper.
2. Glue the inside of the wings to the cardboard, leaving the outside of the wings loose. Glue the butterfly's body on top of the wings.
3. Blow up the balloon.
4. Rub a balloon on your hair and put it close to the butterfly body. The wings will lift and stick to the balloon.

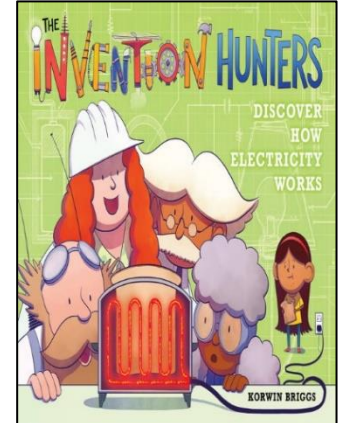
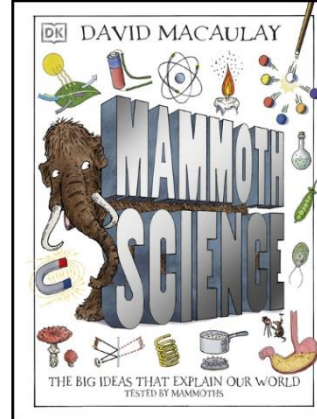
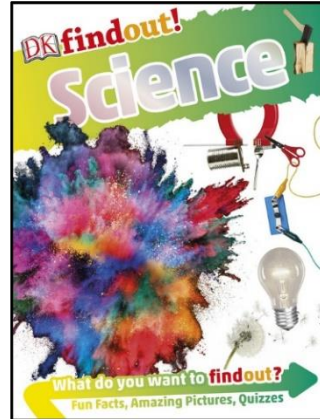
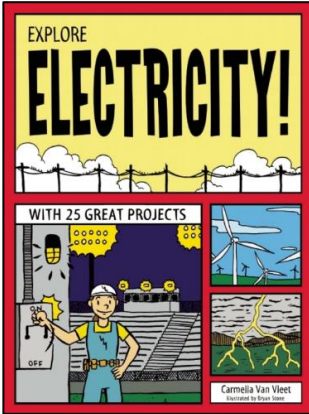
The science behind it:

Static electricity allowed the balloon to 'attract' the tissue paper wings, lifting them. If you hadn't rubbed the balloon on your hair, do you think it still would have happened? Static electricity works best when there is dry air (like during the winter). Do you think the experiment would work in the summer when there is more moisture in the air?

Try using the balloon (after you've rubbed it on your head) to see what other items it can move. Try a tissue, a piece of paper or a sweater.

Links to eResources:

Check out our [eBooks](#) on these topics:



[Electricity](#) | [Science](#)

Search **electricity** on HooplaKids. *Invention of Electricity* by Robin Koontz introduces the history of electricity. Also check out *You, Too, Can Make Electricity!: Experiments For 6th Graders* by Baby Professor and *Experiments with Electricity and Magnetism* by Robert Gardner.

Watch *May the Force Be with You (Static Electricity)* from the series ScienceXplosion (series 4) on Summa Kids. Watch how Eric uses static electricity to move an object without touching it.

You can get a library card at hpl.ca/online-registration.

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