K–5 · INVESTIGATION

Static Electricity Investigation

Name / chosen name: _____

Work with an adult. Predict before testing; observations describe what actually happened.

Materials

A plastic comb, dry cloth and small paper scraps on a tray.

Instructions

1. Predict what will happen when the comb is near paper.
2. Hold the comb close without touching. Record what happens.
3. Rub the comb with the cloth several times.
4. Hold it near the paper again. Compare before and after.

1. My prediction

Observation

Safety: Use a plastic comb and paper only. Keep scraps on the tray, away from mouths. Do not use mains electricity or rub anyone's hair without consent.

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Record and explain

1. What happened?

2. Was it different from my prediction?

3. What did I change or keep the same?

Scientific explanation: Rubbing can transfer electric charge between materials. A charged comb can attract nearby neutral paper by rearranging charges within it. Conditions such as humidity can affect the result.

1. One further question

2. How I could test it safely with an adult

Background source: https://annex.exploratorium.edu/science-explorer/roller.html