

Organization Name: Maryland Science Teachers Association (MAST)

Activity Name: Exploration of static electricity

Activity Description: Students will use common household materials to explore the movement of charge and see how stored electrical energy can be used to make small objects move.

Suggested Grade Level / Age Range: 6-8th grade level

Science Content Covered: static electricity, energy

Time needed to complete the activity: 10 minutes

Materials Required (per student): All materials are reusable. Required materials are two large metal cans, plastic bag, piece of wool, pencil, string, thumbtack, piece of paper, and balloon.

Activity Success Tips for Parents and Teachers: Using two large metal cans, a plastic bag, a piece of wool, a pencil, a piece of string, and a thumbtack this lab activity demonstrates how electrons are attracted to positive charged objects. Electrons from the wool are transferred to a large can, and a thumb tack suspended on a piece of string between the cans bounces between them transferring electrons from first to second can. We will also use a balloon to rub in hair to illustrate the transfer of charge.

Possible follow-up, extension activities or ideas for children and parents to explore (with references or urls): Students can use 2 balloons and string to explore charges at home.

<http://www.school-for-champions.com/science/experiments/expstatic1.htm>

Safety comments / considerations: None.

Primary Contact

Name: Jackie Geer

Contact Information:

Business Phone: 301-469-1150

e-mail address: Jacquelyn_S_Geer@mcpsmd.org

Mailing Address

Street: 15307 Diamond Cove Terrace

Street 2: K

City: Rockville

State: Md..

Zip: 20850

Alternate Contact

Name: Alison Hapka

Contact Information:

Business Phone: 410-996-5000

e-mail address: ahapka@ccps.org

Mailing Address

Street: 110 James Street

Street 2:

City: Elkton

State: MD

Zip: 21921