

Name: _____ Date: _____

Electromagnets



A special kind of magnet uses electricity to create a magnetic field. It is called an **electromagnet**. An electromagnet can be an extremely strong magnet. However, it only acts like a magnet when it has electricity.

A stronger electrical current will produce a stronger magnet. Unlike other magnets, an electromagnet can be controlled by a switch. When the switch turns the electrical current off the electromagnet loses its magnetism. Whatever the electromagnet was holding drops to the ground. We use this technology

to operate large cranes that lift heavy metal objects, such as cars.

Electromagnets are also used to make motors run in small appliances. Combining regular magnets and electromagnets makes it possible for electrical energy to be turned into energy of motion. Motion is another word for movement.

1) What is different about an electromagnet from a regular magnet?

2) What do we use electromagnets for?
