SECTION 4: TESTING MAGNET STRENGTH

LAB

INTRODUCTION
Magnets have varying strengths. Some magnet’s attraction can pick up a staple or a few paper clips. A magnet’s strength can even be used for industrial purposes, like in a junk yard.

ASSESSMENT ANCHORS ADDRESSED
S4.A.2.1 Apply skills necessary to conduct an experiment or design a solution to solve a problem.
S4.C.1.1 Describe observable physical properties of matter.
S4.C.3.1 Identify and describe different types of force and motion, or the effect of the interaction between force and motion.

PURPOSE
Students will observe and record how many nails each magnet picks up. Students communicate their data by creating a bar graph.

MATERIALS
For the Teacher:
1 bar magnet (N-S marked)  Nails in a plastic tray
1 alnico magnet  1 box of paper clips
1 ferrite magnet  1 ring magnet
1 cow magnet  copies of student work sheet*

*Teacher provides items marked with *