

# RAFT IDEAS

**Topics:** Color mixing,  
Eye-hand coordination,  
Properties of magnets

## Materials List

- ✓ Paper plate or binder cover with paper insert (or equivalent, shallow pan)
- ✓ Magnet (e.g. Mini Magnet Wand)
- ✓ Paint
- ✓ Selection of items that will/will not be attracted to magnet
- ✓ Blocks or rack to hold painting

This activity can be used to teach:

Next Generation Science Standards:

- Properties of materials (Grade 2, Physical Science 1-1, 1-2)
- Electric or magnetic interactions between objects not in contact (Grade 3, Physical Science, 2-3)
- Magnets (Grade 3, Physical Science 2-4)

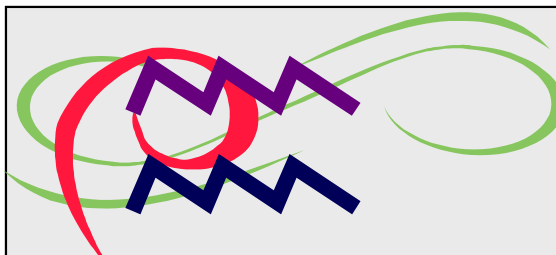
National Visual Arts Standards:

- Experiment with forms, structures & materials, (Creating – Organize and develop artistic ideas and work, Grades Pre K-3)



# Magnet Painting

Unusual “Brushes” Make Attractive Creations



This activity provides an engaging opportunity to be creative while investigating the magnetic properties of various materials. Children will create new colors as they move the magnetic items through the paint.

## To Do and Notice

1. Collect a paper plate (or a binder cover lined with paper), some small items that are attracted to a magnet, and a small magnet.
2. Drop a small amount of paint at various places on the paper and place the small magnetic items onto the paper. Alternate: dip the metal objects in paint and place them on the paper.
3. Place the painting surface on blocks or a rack with enough room underneath to move hands. Have the child hold the magnet under the plate/tray and use it to move the items on the top of the plate/tray through the paint.
4. Notice how the items respond to the “pull” of the magnet and move the paint.
5. Notice how the mixing colors create new colors.

## The Content Behind the Activity

A magnet and a magnetic item will be mutually attracted to each other. Most magnetic items (paperclip, washer, nut, etc.) are made of steel, an alloy that contains iron. The magnetic attraction happens at a distance, becoming stronger as magnet and the magnetic item get closer to one another. The magnetic attraction can pass through non-magnetic items such as a paper plate, binder cover, and paint.

As the student moves the magnetic materials through the paint with the magnet he/she will have the opportunity to observe the formation of “new” colors. If students begin with primary colors, they will be able to see how secondary colors are created.

## Taking it Further

1. Ask students to select or sort items to use in this activity. Then, after being given a magnet, the students can test their predictions.
2. Instead of paper, apply paint directly to Plexiglas and make a print.
3. Attach string to the metal objects and drag strings through paint for a different look.

**Web Resources** (Visit [www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=200](http://www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=200) for more resources!)