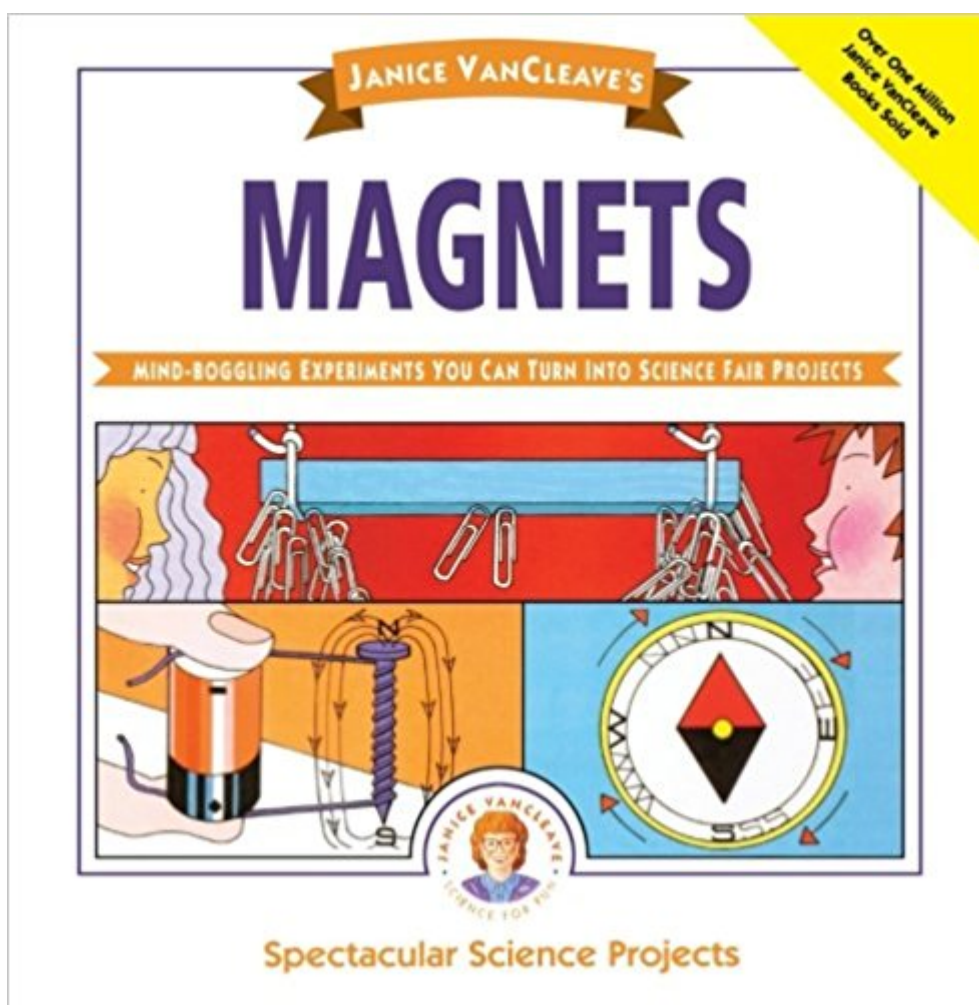


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# Janice VanCleave's Magnets: Mind-boggling Experiments You Can Turn Into Science Fair Projects



## Synopsis

The perfect science fair idea books. Spectacular Science Projects Janice VanCleave's Magnets \* How does a compass work? \* What is a magnetic field? \* How can you make a magnet with electricity? Janice VanCleave's Magnets includes 20 simple and fun experiments that allow you to discover the answers to these and other fascinating questions about magnets, plus dozens of additional suggestions for developing your own science fair projects. Learn about magnetic poles using a bar magnet, paper, and string; about magnetic force fields with a compass, a pencil, and a sheet of paper; and much more. All experiments use inexpensive household materials and involve a minimum of preparation and clean up. Children ages 8-12 Also available in the Spectacular Science Projects Series: Janice VanCleave's Animals Janice VanCleave's Earthquakes Janice VanCleave's Electricity Janice VanCleave's Gravity Janice VanCleave's Machines Janice VanCleave's Molecules Janice VanCleave's Microscopes and Magnifying Lenses Janice VanCleave's Volcanoes Janice VanCleave's Weather

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 3-6-This collection of 20 science demonstrations illustrates basic properties of electricity, from static electricity to simple circuits and eletromagnetism. They all use household materials and include a brief explanation of what happened, some ideas for additional experiments, and a section called "show time" for science fairs. Experimental details are clear and written at a basic level.

However, other than a clever use for clothespins in building circuits, most of the material is old hat. A bigger problem here, though, is in the packaging that promises "cook-book experiments" guaranteed not to fail. If only "real" science were that easy. Moreover, most science-fair judges downgrade projects they believe are basically copied from books such as this one. Generic black-and-white illustrations are scattered throughout the text; there is a glossary of terms but no list for further reading. Robert Gardner's *Electricity and Magnetism* (Holt, 1994) is a better book on the same subject. Alan Newman, American Chemical Society, Washington, Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Gr. 5-7. VanCleave, a prolific author of science project books, offers 20 experiments with electricity as part of her *Spectacular Science Project* series. A discussion of how to create and present a successful science fair project precedes the clearly spelled out projects, which contain a sample problem (How does matter become electrically charged? Can a magnet produce an electric current?); a list of materials (including "adult helper" when warranted); step-by-step procedures; a summary of the guaranteed results; the reason(s) why the results were achieved; suggestions for making small changes and achieving new results; help in formatting one's own experiment; and suggestions for getting further information. The experiments move from the simple, which do not require the use of batteries, to those that require small batteries, sizes AA, AAA, C, or D. An appendix shows how to make strips of aluminum foil that can be used to form the electrical circuits that are part of some of the experiments. By encouraging students to move beyond the basic problems (with adult supervision), the author encourages them to be creative in designing science fair projects. Glossary. Sally Estes --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

My first grader is participating in a science fair for the first time this year, and expressed interest in magnets. My husband and I were looking for a book that would provide some ideas on magnets-based projects and this is one book that has plenty of good ideas in it. The author begins the book with some handy tips on how to prepare for a science fair project. This is followed by various experiments using magnets, such as mapping, plotting, protector, dipper, back and forth, temporary, permanent, attractive spirals, demagnetize, pushing and pulling, etc. Each experiment is explained in detail with a format like this: Problem - states the problem Materials - list of things required for the experiment Procedure - step-by-step listing of what is to be done during the experiment Results - what happens Why? - explains why this occurs Let's Explore - provides ideas on how a simple experiment can be expanded into a project Showtime! - ideas on presentation Check It

Out! - further ideas, reading, etc. Verdict - a simple yet informative book, perfect for beginners exploring ideas on magnetism for science fair projects.

What a great book! My seven year old is very interested in magnets, and now we have all the possible experiments we could ever need at our fingertips. The book was in good condition as listed.

Very useful for home school science experiments.

excellent condition, useful book for \$.01!

Hoping to come up with a smashing science fair project this year!

My 9 year old grandson loves the book, and is doing a science project for the first time this year. He plays with magnets all the time and is fascinated by them, hence they will be the main focus for his project. Thank you for the discounted price and the truth in telling that the book was in good condition and it was. I'm sure his project will be a success and he's also learning new things about magnets.

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