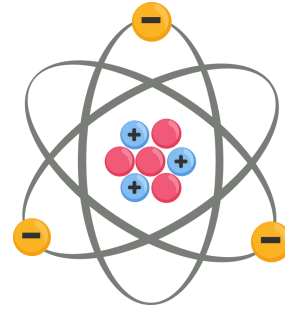
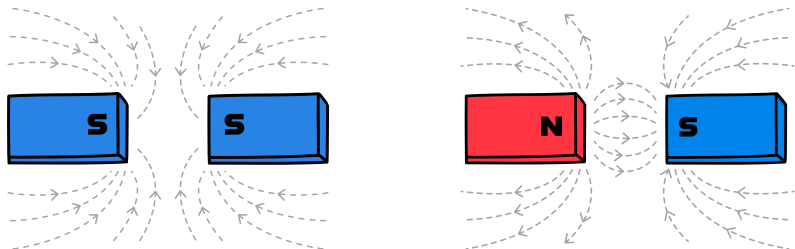


BAFFLING BALLOONS

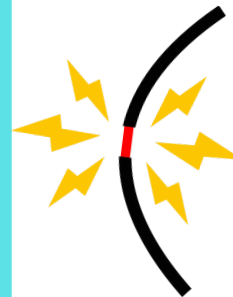
Everything in the universe is made of **ATOMS** – tiny little particles that are too small to see with your eyes. Atoms are made of **protons** (which have positive charge), **neutrons** (which have no charge), and **electrons** (which have negative charge). When you rub the balloons on your head, you are increasing the electrons on it. So why did things stick?



Think of a magnet. It has two ends. If you try to push together two North ends or two South ends, it is hard to do, because they will push, or **repel**, each other. If you flip one magnet around, then the North and South ends will **attract** (pull) each other together. Electric charges of the same type repel, while opposite charges attract. The negative charge on the balloon is attracted the positive charges on your hair and paper. It repels the other balloon because both are negatively charged.



Static electricity involves electric charges that aren't moving. That's why we call them static – static means "still"!



Some electrons move in a regular flow, like water in a river. We call these flowing electrons **electrical current**. We use electrical current for lights, to charge phones, and so much more! Static electricity can't be used to power homes because it doesn't move in a regular current.



**WAIT!
DO NOT FLIP
THIS PAGE!**

Before you flip this page over, check:

1. Have you completed the experiment?
2. Have you answered all the discussion questions?

Only look at the other side of this page when you are finished.

**IF SOMEONE ELSE IS DOING THIS EXPERIMENT AFTER YOU,
PLEASE FLIP THIS PAGE BACK OVER!**