

Puffed Rice Fleas

Section: Forces & Interactions

Name: _____

Date: _____

Inquiry Question

Write down what you'll be learning today! What do you want to understand?

Procedure

1. Sprinkle several kernels of puffed rice cereal on a plate.
2. Inflate a balloon and tie the end so it is sealed.
3. Rub the balloon on a charging cloth material in one direction multiple times.
4. Slowly bring the now-charged balloon near the cereal and observe what happens.
5. Hold the balloon motionless and note any changes.
6. Try step 4 again, but this time immediately turn the balloon upside down so the kernels are on top of the balloon. Observe.

Observations, Data Collection & Analysis

Write down your observations below.

1. Before the activity starts, make a prediction: what do you think will happen when you rub the balloon, then hold it near the cereal?

2. What happens when you rub the inflated balloon on the carpet or wool material? (Can you see a change?)

3. After step four, write your observations. Describe what is happening and draw a picture.

4. After holding the balloon over the cereal for some time (step five), you will notice a change. Describe what happens. Why does this happen?

5. After step six, do you have a revised explanation for what you observed in step five? Why or why not?

6. What will happen if you place the balloon near the puffed rice cereal without rubbing it on something first? Why?
