Name: Date: Score: / 6

Magnets: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: Science · about 190 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

Magnets

Magnets seem almost magical. They can pull objects toward them without even touching them. This invisible pushing or pulling is called magnetic force.

Every magnet has two ends, called poles: a north pole and a south pole. If you bring two magnets together, the opposite poles attract, or pull toward each other. A north pole and a south pole will snap together. But like poles repel, or push away from each other. Try to push two north poles together, and you will feel them resist.

Magnets attract only certain metals, mainly iron, nickel, and cobalt. Steel contains iron, so a magnet will stick to a steel refrigerator door. However, magnets do not attract wood, plastic, paper, or even some metals like aluminum and copper.

Earth itself acts like a giant magnet. That is why a compass works. The needle of a compass is a small magnet. It lines up with Earth's magnetic field and points north. For hundreds of years, sailors and explorers used compasses to find their way.

Today, magnets are everywhere. They are inside speakers, computers, electric motors, and even the cards you use to open hotel doors.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?
   A. how to build a refrigerator B. the metals in Earth's core C. how magnets work and how we use them D. the life of explorers

2. **Detail:** What are the two ends of a magnet called?
   A. corners B. poles C. sides D. tips

3. **Detail:** What happens when two opposite poles meet?
   A. Nothing happens. B. They break. C. They repel. D. They attract.

4. **Detail:** Which of these will a magnet attract?
   A. aluminum B. wood C. iron D. plastic

5. **Inference:** Why does a compass needle point north?
   A. Wind pushes it. B. It is a small magnet that lines up with Earth's magnetic field. C. It is painted red. D. It is very heavy.

6. **Vocabulary:** What does repel mean?

ANSWER KEY

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6. **Vocabulary:** What does repel mean?
   to push away