



## FORCES AND MAGNETS

## **Directions:**

Read the passage carefully, then fill in the blanks using information from the passage to complete each sentence correctly.

In our world, many different forces are constantly at work. A force is a push or pull that makes an object move, stop, or change direction. One important force is friction. Friction happens when two surfaces rub against each other. It slows down the movement of objects, like when you try to slide a book across a table. Friction works against motion, making things harder to move.

Another force is gravity, which pulls objects toward the Earth. It's why when you drop something, it falls to the ground. The strength of gravity depends on the mass of an object—heavier things feel more pull from gravity than lighter ones.

Some forces, like magnetism, don't need contact between objects. Magnets have two poles, called the north and south poles, which can either attract or repel other magnets. Certain materials, like iron, are pulled toward magnets. Magnetism is also important in nature—sea turtles, for example, use the Earth's magnetic field to help them navigate the oceans!

To help us overcome some of these forces, we use simple machines. Simple machines, such as levers, pulleys, and ramps, make it easier to lift or move objects by increasing the effect of a smaller force. They are tools that help make work easier in many ways.

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