

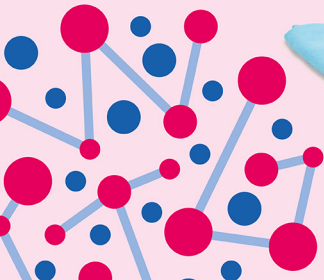
Snake charming

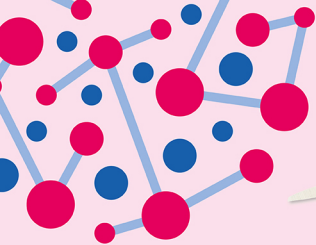
At-home science activity



You will need:

- Aluminium foil dish or tray
- Tissue paper
- Plastic pen
- Scissors
- Woolen or silk fabric





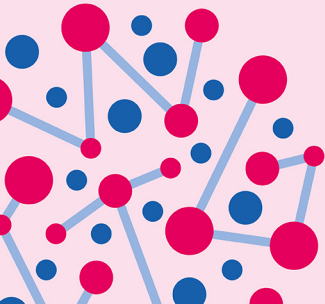
In this activity, you will safely produce static electricity and use it to attract one material to another.

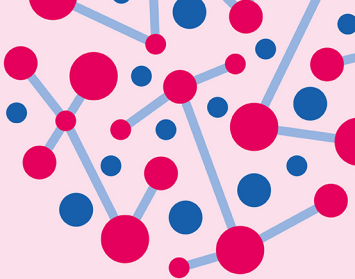
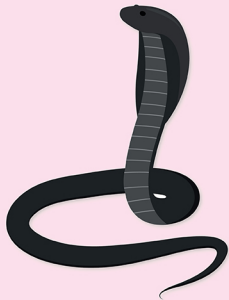
1. Cut out a circle of tissue paper that will fit inside the aluminium foil dish or tray.
2. Draw and cut out a spiral snake on the tissue paper. Make sure the whole circle is used.
3. Place the spiral snake in the dish or tray.

4. Rub a plastic pen rapidly in the woolen/silk fabric for about a minute, so it builds up a static charge.

5. Hold the charged pen to the snake's head, taking care not to touch the dish. The snake should rise up from the tray.

6. Why does this happen? See next image!





Why does the snake rise up from the tray?

Electrons are transferred from the cloth to the pen to give it a negative charge. This build up of static energy means the pen attracts the tissue snake, as the extra electrons try to flow from the pen to the aluminium dish, in order to become neutral again.