Chapter 2: Electromagnets Knowledge organiser



- **Magnetic materials** will experience a magnetic force when placed near a magnet, this is a type of non-contact force as the materials do not have to touch for the force to be apparent
- The three magnetic metals are iron, nickel and cobalt

Magnetic fields

- A magnetic field is an area where a magnetic material will experience a force
- A permanent magnet will have it's own magnetic field
- Magnetic field lines represent the field, these always travel out of the north pole of the magnet, and into the south pole
- The closer together the magnetic field lines are, the stronger the magnetic field will be
- We can find out the shape of a magnetic field in two ways:
 - Using plotting compasses
 - Using iron filings

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- The Earth has its own magnetic field, which acts like a giant bar magnet inside the centre of the Earth
- This magnetic field allows compasses to work when navigating around the Earth

Electromagnets

- Electromagnets are made by wrapping a coil of wire around a magnetic core
- Electromagnets only work when electricity is flowing through the coil, which means that they can be turned on and off
- Electromagnets are also stronger than **permanent** magnets
- The electromagnet will produce the same magnetic field shape as a bar magnet



• You can increase the strength of an electromagnet by:

core

• Increasing the number of turns on the coil around the core of the electromagnet

Make sure you can write definitions for these key terms.

circuit breaker

- Increasing the current which is flowing through the coil of wire
- Using a more magnetic material for the core, e.g. iron rather than aluminium



magnetic field lines

Key terms

attract

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magnet

screw **r**

electric bell

electromagnet

loudspeaker

Spring

Switch

magnetic pole

Cell





Circuit breakers detect large changes in current in a house, and will break

- When a large current flows, the electromagnet becomes strong enough to attract an iron catch which will break a circuit
- This makes them suitable as an electrical safety device in a home
- Loudspeakers use an electromagnet in order to generate sound
- A current passes through the coil and creates an electromagnet, this repels another permanent magnet which moves the cone in and out creating sound



magnetic material permanent magnet

repel

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