

Curiosity Labs™ by Merck:
Dancing critters

in this experiment, you will learn...

- What **static electricity** is

Share your results and tag us! #SPARKCuriosity

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SUPPLIES

- Tissue paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Balloon

Instructions

STEP 1

Use the markers to draw a critter of your choice on the tissue paper.

STEP 2

Carefully cut out your critter with the scissors.

STEP 3

Inflate the balloon and tie it closed.

STEP 4

Rub the balloon on your shirt or your hair for a few seconds.

STEP 5

Move the balloon close to the critter and see what happens!

FUN FACTS

Static electricity can build around many different types of surfaces and causes the quick “shock” feeling you may have felt when touching a doorknob, shopping cart or another person’s hand.

Static electricity is more intense when humidity is low, which is why it is more common to feel these “shocks” in the winter months.



WHAT HAPPENED?

Static electricity is a buildup of electricity that stays in one place. In this experiment, the static electricity remains close to the balloon. When the balloon moves towards the tissue paper, the tissue paper also moves since the static electricity around the balloon is a stronger force than gravity, the force that is holding the tissue paper still.

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