



Smithsonian

SCIENCE
for the classroom

A Force To Be Reckoned With: Using Hands-On and Literacy to Build Elementary Students' Understanding of Forces



Kindergarten

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**HOW CAN WE
CHANGE AN
OBJECT'S MOTION?**





PHYSICAL SCIENCE

TEACHER GUIDE

3rd Grade

 **Smithsonian**

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for the classroom

**HOW CAN WE
USE PATTERNS TO
PREDICT MOTION?**





PHYSICAL SCIENCE

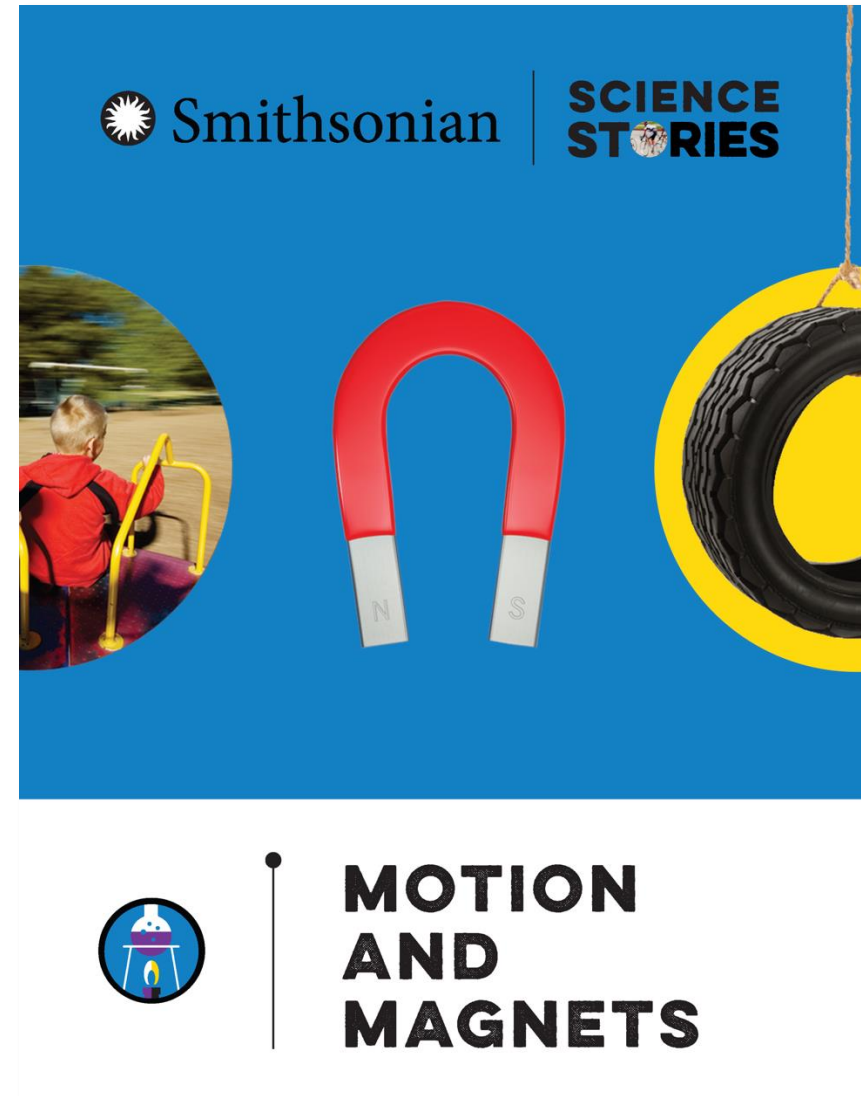
TEACHER GUIDE

Reading, Writing, and Speaking **for Purpose**

K



3rd





8:15-8:30	Morning meeting
8:30-9:30	Math
9:30-10:30	Reading
10:30-11:30	Writing
11:30-12:30	Lunch/Recess
12:30-1:30	Specials
1:30-1:45	Snack
1:45-2:45	Science/Social studies
2:45-3:00	Pack up

Using ELA Time to Read and Write About Science

HOW CAN WE CHANGE AN OBJECT'S MOTION?



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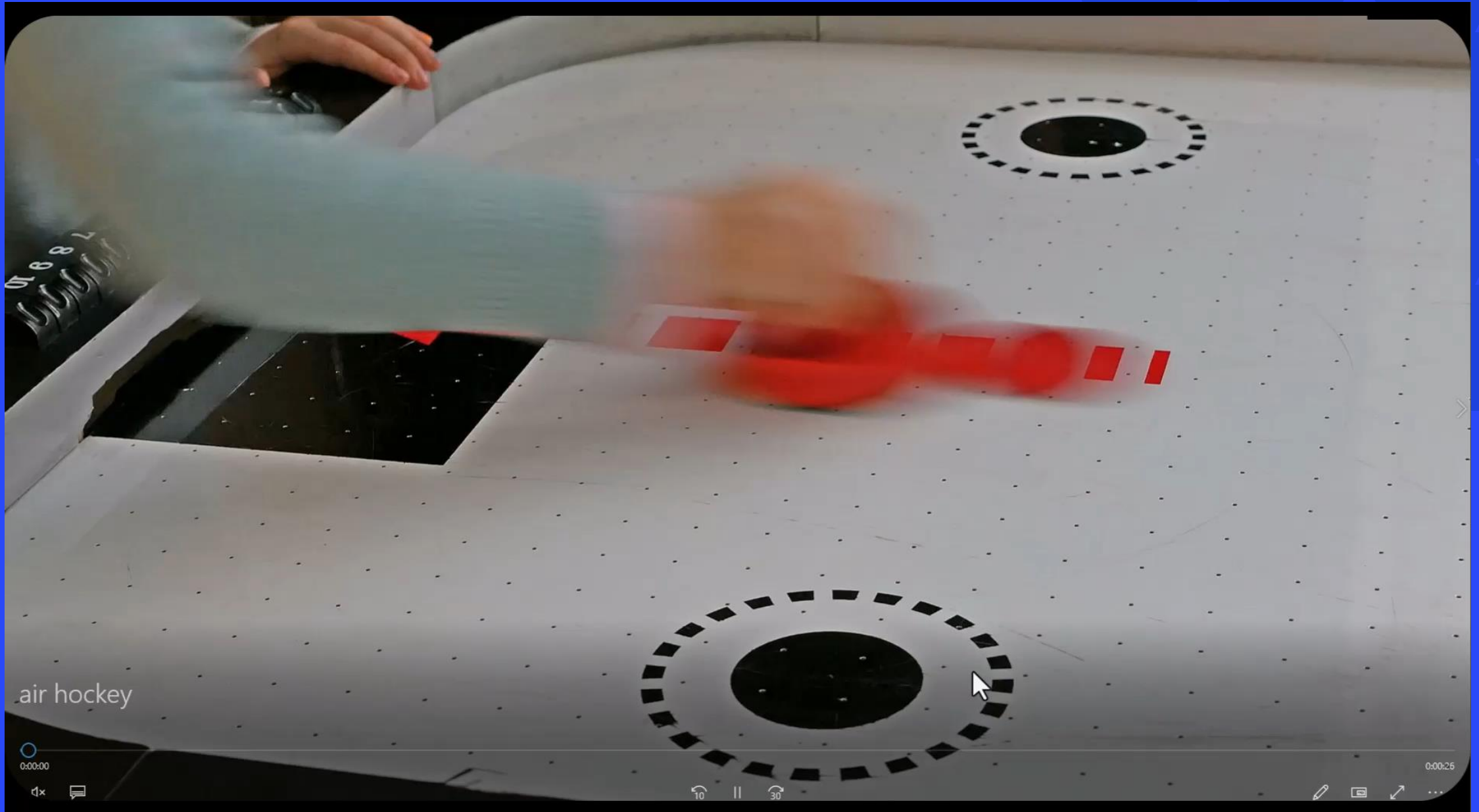
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Lesson

7

Wall Tests



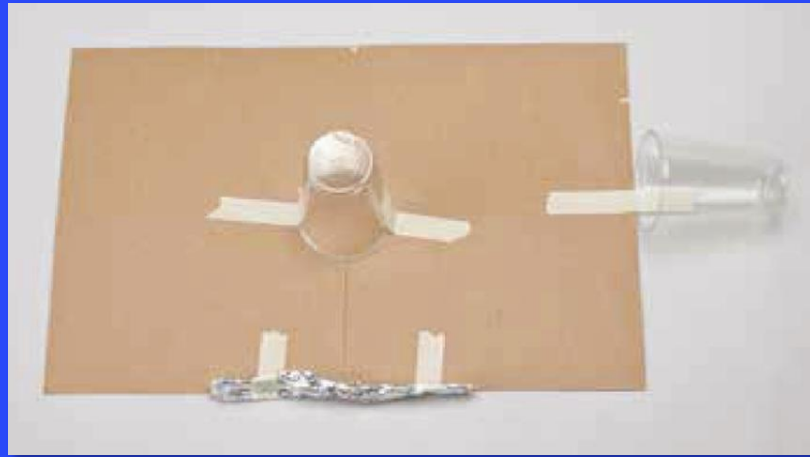
Wall Tests

Aluminum Foil Station

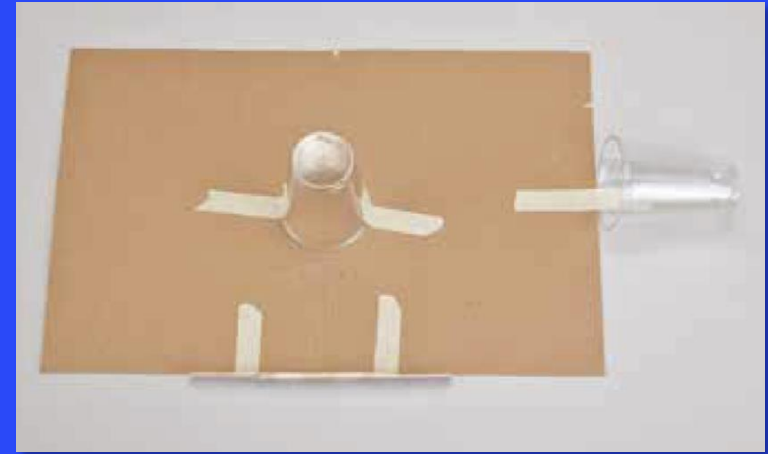


Wall Tests

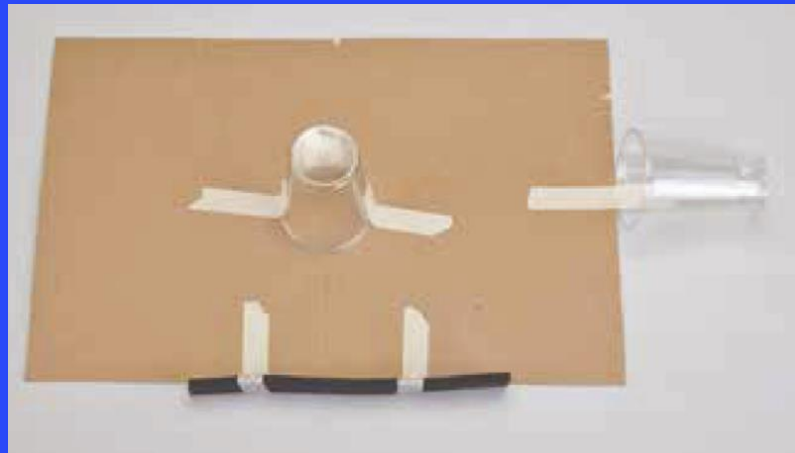
Aluminum Foil Station



Tongue Depressor Station



Foam Station



Cardboard Tube Station



Which Materials Make a Good Side Wall?

Aluminum foil 	
Tongue depressor 	
Foam 	
Wooden dowel 	
Cardboard tube 	
Paper 	

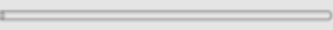
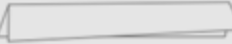
✓ Good
X Not Good

Engineers Investigate: Which materials make a good side wall?



Lesson 7 Notebook Sheet

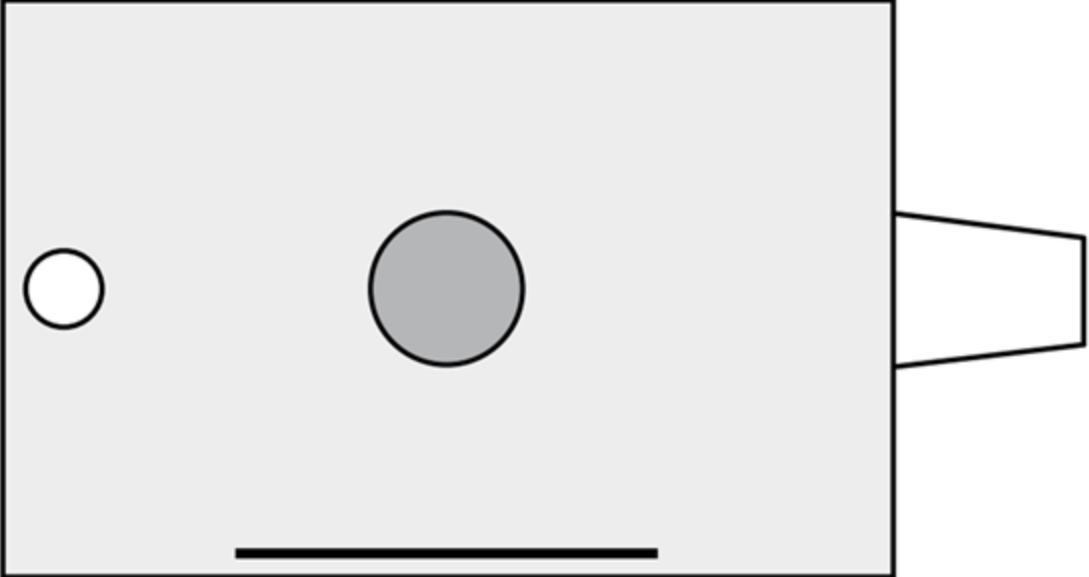
Which Materials Make a Good Side Wall?

Aluminum foil 	
Tongue depressor 	
Foam 	
Wooden dowel 	
Cardboard tube 	
Paper 	

✓ Good
X Not Good

198 How Can We Change an Object's Motion?

Wall Test

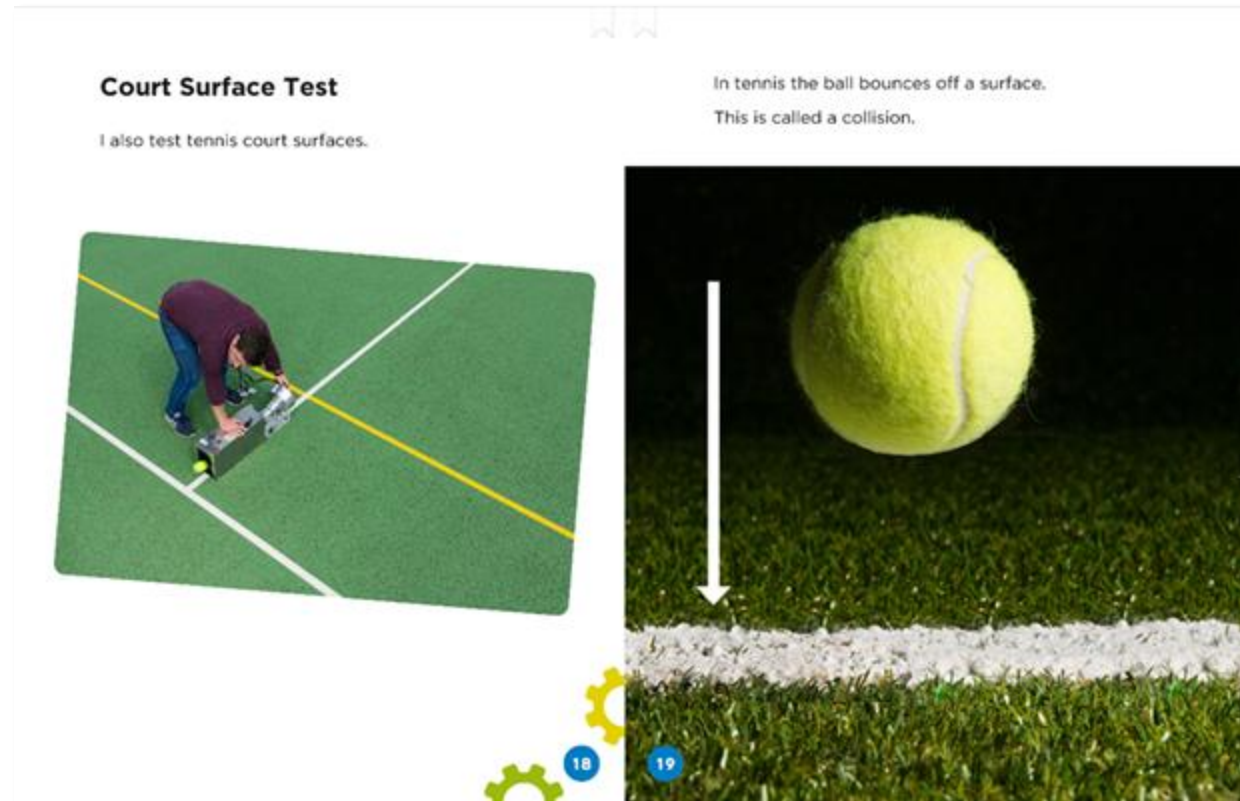


Lesson 7 Activity Sheet

202 How Can We Change an Object's Motion?

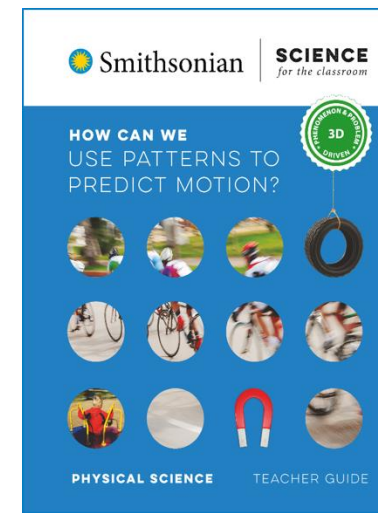
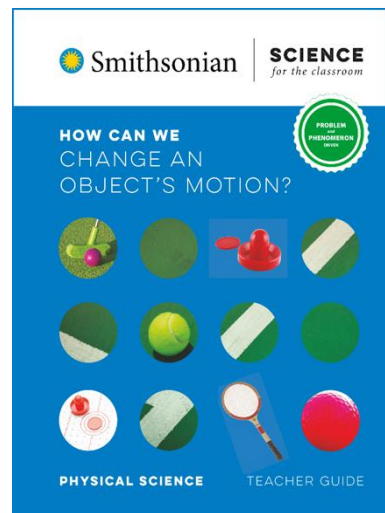
Reading: Tennis Tests

Read: Court Surface Test



Connection Between Kindergarten and 3rd-Grade Modules

- **Kindergarten DCI:** When objects touch or collide they push on one another and can change motion.
- **Grade 3 DCI:** Electrical and magnetic forces between a pair of objects do not require that the objects be in contact. The sizes of the forces in each situation depend on the properties of the objects and their distances apart and, for forces between two magnets, on their orientation relative to each other.



HOW CAN WE USE PATTERNS TO PREDICT MOTION?



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Students' Work Is Driven by a Problem

Problem: Trash has been thrown into a single can and needs to be separated into recyclables.



Read: Recycling Research



READING 7

Toolbar

MOTION AND MAGNETS

< PREV 42 / 50 NEXT >

Spanish

Steel

Paper clips and train tracks contain a material called **steel**.

Steel is made from iron and some other metals.

They are melted with some chemicals and then formed into long slabs.

The steel slabs are used to make a lot of things.

Melting the steel ingredients takes a lot of energy.

It takes less energy to melt down steel that is being recycled.

Steel can be recycled over and over.

Steel is the most recycled material on the planet.

Steel for recycling can come from vehicles, factories, and old bridges.

▲ This person is pouring molten steel.

▲ In the US and Canada, steel from recycled cars can make 13 million new cars each year.

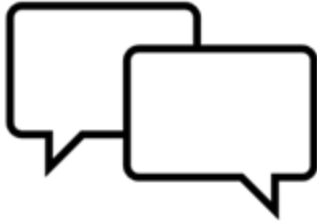
Tips for Using Text to Help Explain a Phenomenon or Solve a Problem

- Introduce the text as informational text.
- Flip through the story to look at titles, illustrations, and captions—predict what the reading will be about and maybe how it could help explain the phenomenon or solve the problem.
- Read twice! Many options:
 - Teacher reads aloud
 - Students skim to look for important sections
 - Close read
 - Pair read
- Copy the reading so students can annotate it or have students use sticky notes to label important parts.

Model Trash



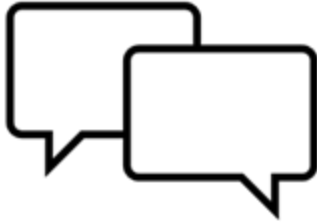
Engineers Define Problems



Model Trash

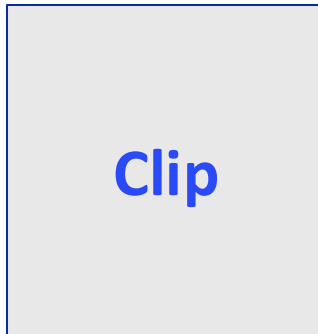


Engineers Define Problems



Why do you think a paper clip starts to move toward a magnet when the magnet is close to the clip?

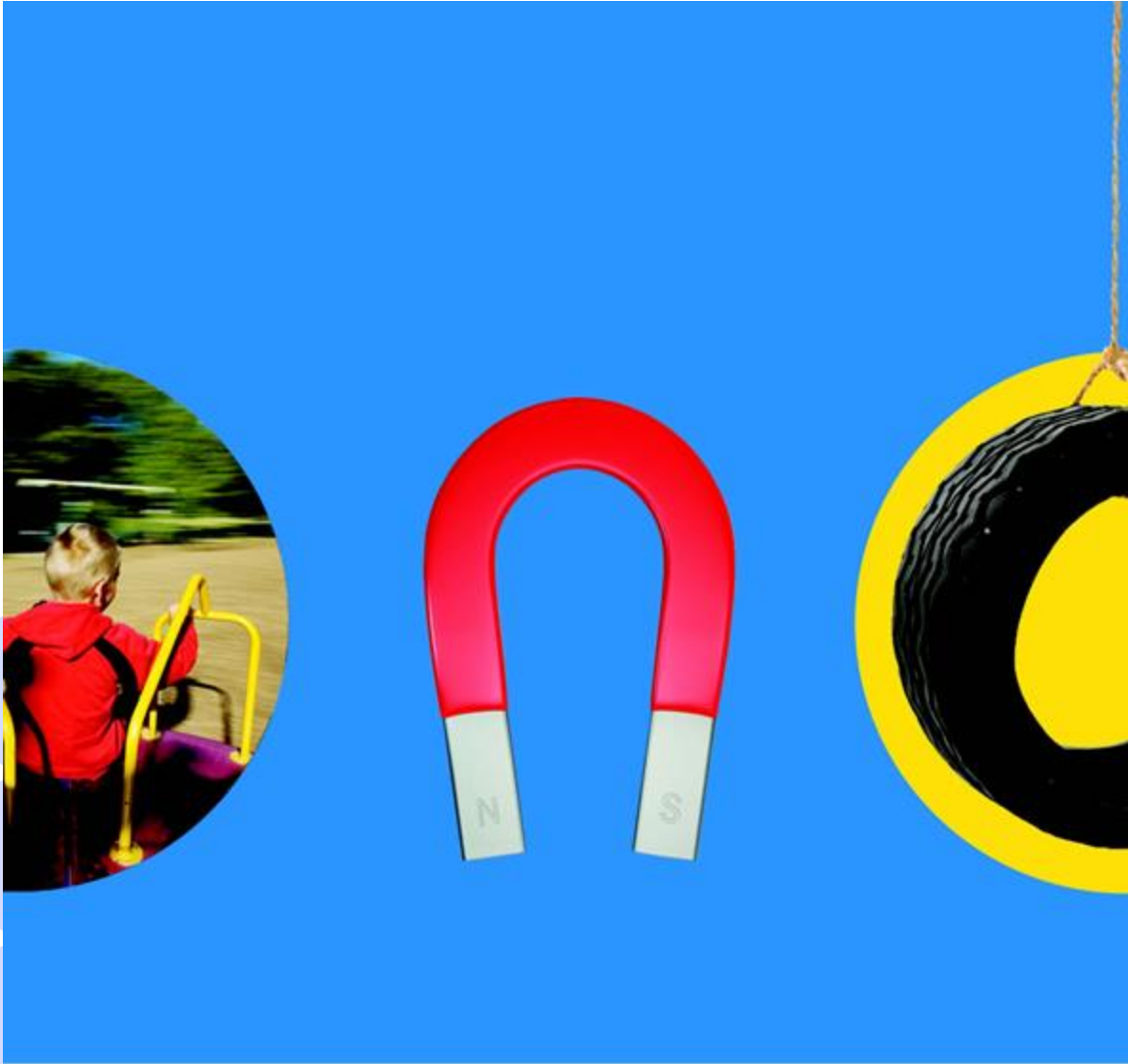
How do you know it was an unbalanced force?



How would you draw the **force** the magnet applied to the paper clip?

How could you represent **motion** of the paper clip on the diagram?

“**Attract**” is often used to describe the result of magnetic force on an object that is pulled toward the magnet.



Lesson

10

Can Magnets Help?

Group Roles

 **Scientists and Engineers in Our Classroom: Group Roles**

 Builder Takes the lead in putting together materials.	 Gardener/Zookeeper Makes sure live organisms are cared for and treated with respect.	 Artist Draws any sketches, diagrams, or graphs.
 Messenger Asks questions of the teacher for the group.	 Organizer Makes sure group members work together and complete work on time.	 Recorder Writes down data, observations, and explanations.
 Speaker Shares the group's final work or ideas with the whole class.	 Tester Takes the lead in carrying out investigations and testing designs.	 Questioner Asks questions of group members to make sure all points of view are considered.



Materials Manager
Collects, cleans up, and puts away materials neatly.



Organizer
Makes sure group members work together and complete work on time.



Questioner
Asks questions of group members to make sure all points of view are considered.

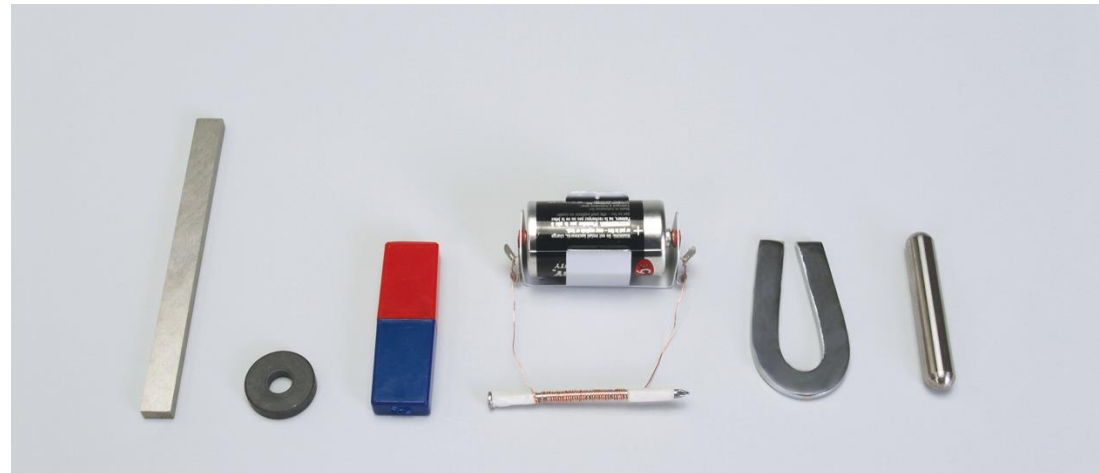


Tester
Takes the lead in carrying out investigations and testing designs.

Engineers Investigate: Magnetic Force



Groups of 4
Materials Manager
Organizer
Questioner
Tester



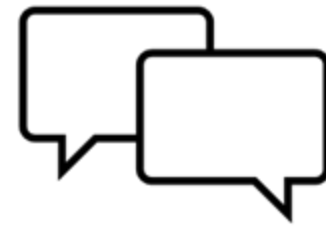
Engineers Investigate: Magnetic Force

Magnetic Force Strength Test

Touch



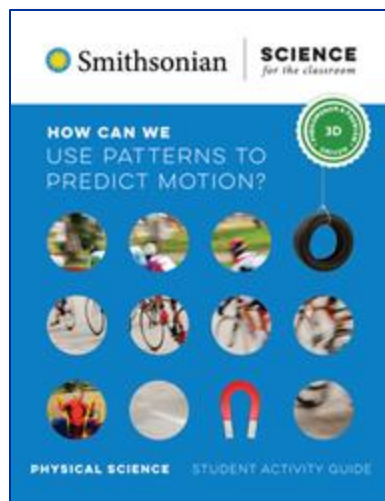
Release



What does this test tell you about magnetic force?

How can you tell if the magnetic force is stronger or weaker for different magnets?

Student Activity Guide: Review Materials



Lesson 10: Can Magnets Help?

Materials

For each student

- STEM notebook

For each group of four students

- 1 Lesson 10 Activity Sheet A
- 1 Lesson 10 Activity Sheet B



For the Small Bar Magnet station

- 2 Small bar magnets
- 1 Magnetic force strength tester
- 1 Metric ruler

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For the Large Bar Magnet station

- 2 Large bar magnets
- 1 Magnetic force strength tester
- 1 Metric ruler

For the Horseshoe Magnet station

- 2 Horseshoe magnets
- 1 Magnetic force strength tester
- Metric ruler

For the Ring Magnet station

- 2 Ring magnets
- 1 Magnetic force strength tester
- 1 Metric ruler

For the Cow Magnet station

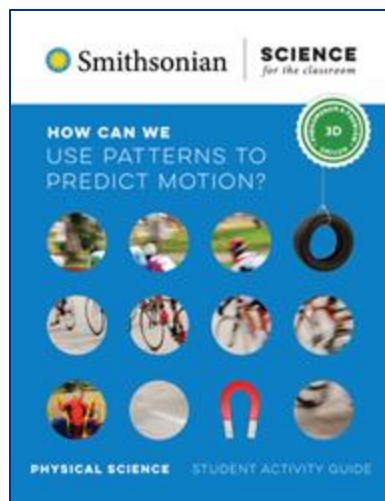
- 2 Cow magnets
- 1 Magnetic force strength tester
- 1 Metric ruler

For the Electromagnet station

- 1 Electromagnet
- 1 Magnetic force strength tester
- 1 Metric ruler

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Student Activity Guide: Complete Steps 1–4



Stay Safe!

The electromagnet nail and wire may get hot. Disconnect the wire from the battery when you are not testing this magnet.

Procedure



1. Is the paper clip attracted by a magnetic force? Record your results on Activity Sheet A.

Group Work

Everyone should try a different test at a new station.



2. Do the TOUCH part of the magnetic force strength test. Record your results on your activity sheet.

- Touch one magnet to the free end of the paper clip.
- Lift the magnet until the string is stretched up.
- Hold a ruler behind the string with the 0 cm end on the desk.
- How far is the magnet from the desk?



3. Do the RELEASE part of the magnetic force strength test. Record your results in the notebook table.

- Slowly pull the magnet higher.



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- How far away from the desk is the magnet when the paper clip is no longer attracted to the magnet?

Group Work

You may need to test the magnet height a few times to get a good measurement.

Stay Safe!

Magnets can snap together quickly and pinch you. Keep your fingers away from magnet edges.

4. Move to a new station when your teacher tells you to. Leave the Student Activity Guide for the next group.

Stop & Think

Does each part of the magnet have the same magnetic force?



5. Compare the magnets you tested. Answer Question 1 on Activity Sheet B.

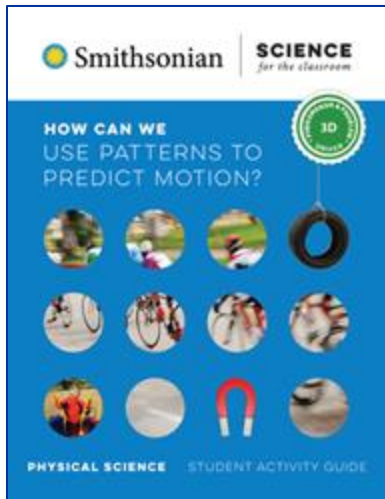


6. Test how two magnets act near each other.

- Place one magnet on the desk.
- Slide a second magnet along the desk, bringing it closer to the one at rest.
- What happens to the magnet at rest?
- Can you change what you do with the second magnet to make the magnet at rest act differently?
- Discuss what happens.
- Answer Question 2 on Activity Sheet B.

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Student Activity Guide: Complete Steps 5–7



7. Discuss magnetic force.

- What evidence do you have that the force of a magnet can act without touching an object?
- How could you learn more about magnetic force?
- Answer Question 3 on Activity Sheet B.



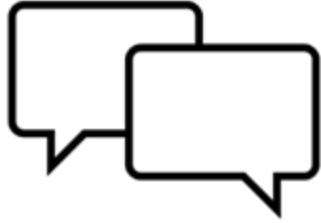
Lesson 10 Activity Sheet B
Magnets at a Distance

Type of Magnet	Does it attract a paper clip?	Magnetic Force Strength Test (cm)	
Cow magnet	Y N	Touch _____	Release _____
Electromagnet	Y N	Touch _____	Release _____
Horseshoe magnet	Y N	Touch _____	Release _____
Large bar magnet	Y N	Touch _____	Release _____
Ring magnet	Y N	Touch _____	Release _____
Small bar magnet	Y N	Touch _____	Release _____

Lesson 10 Activity Sheet B
Magnets at a Distance

- How are the magnets you tested alike? How are they different?
Alike _____ Different _____
- You moved a magnet close to a stationary magnet. What happened? Include force diagrams in your answer.
- You need to define solution goals for the trash problem. Investigating forces might help. Ask a testable question about an effect of a force that acts on a piece of trash without touching the trash.

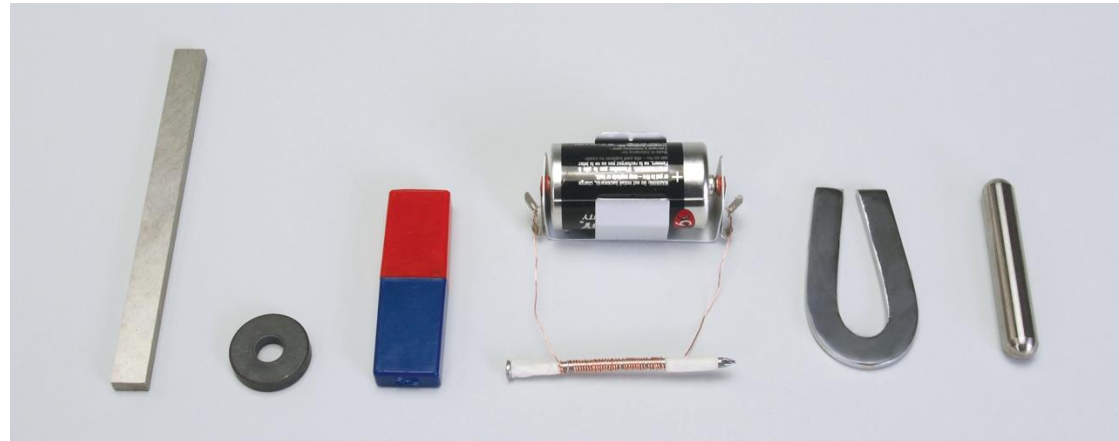
Engineers Explain: Magnetic Force



Do two magnets always act the same way when they are close to each other?

How does the electromagnet compare to the other magnets?

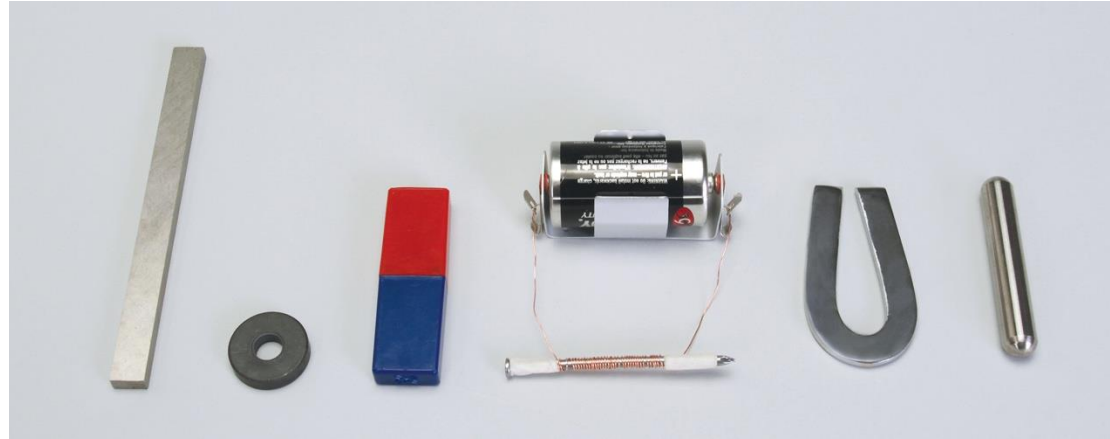
What do you mean by “turn it on and off”?



Most of the magnets you have been studying, such as bar magnets, horseshoe magnets, and ring magnets, are called **permanent magnets**.

They always have magnetic properties.

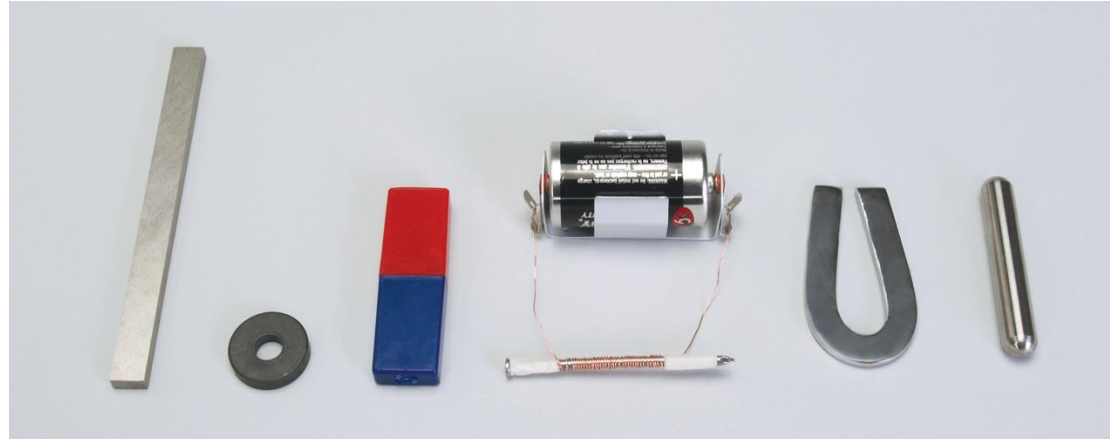
Engineers Explain: Magnetic Force



The **magnetic force** is strongest at parts of a magnet called **magnetic poles**. Magnets have two poles, often called a north pole and a south pole. Sometimes these are labeled N and S, or marked by different colors, usually red for north and blue for south.

When different, or opposite, poles point toward each other, they pull or attract. When like poles point toward each other, they push or repel.

Engineers Explain: Magnetic Force

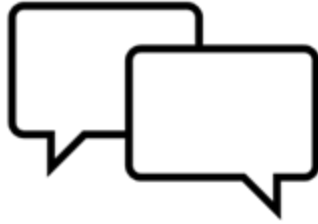


Electromagnets are made from materials that do not have magnetic properties.

The parts can be put together, like the wire wrapped around the nail. When the wire is attached to the battery, it magnetizes the nail.

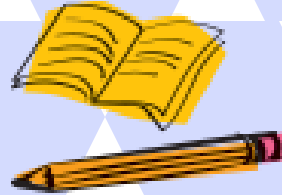
Sometimes, when the connection to the battery is broken, the nail remains magnetized for a short period of time.

Engineers Ask Testable Questions



Did anyone write a testable question about electromagnets?

Did anyone ask a testable question about a force that can act at a distance that isn't a magnetic force?



Lesson 10 Activity Sheet B

Magnets at a Distance

1. How are the magnets you tested alike? How are they different?

Alike	Different

2. You moved a magnet close to a stationary magnet. What happened? Include force diagrams in your answer.

3. You need to define solution goals for the trash problem. Investigating forces might help. Ask a testable question about an effect of a force that acts on a piece of trash without touching the trash.

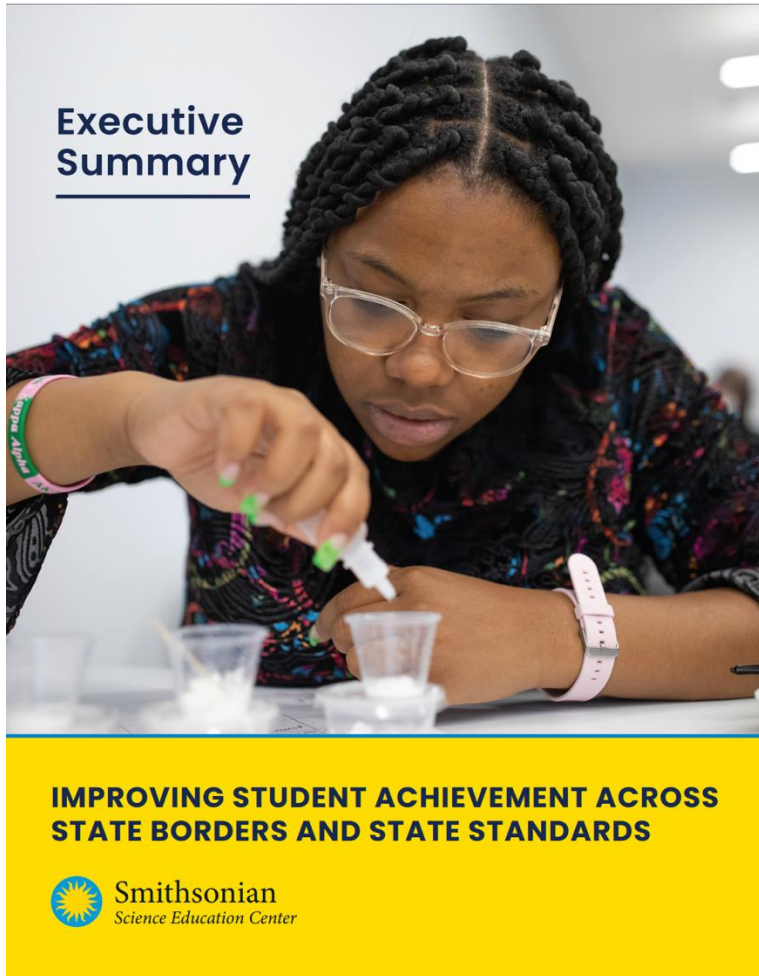
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Blackline Masters 287

All Green Rating from EdReports.org



Improving Student Achievement Across State Borders and State Standards



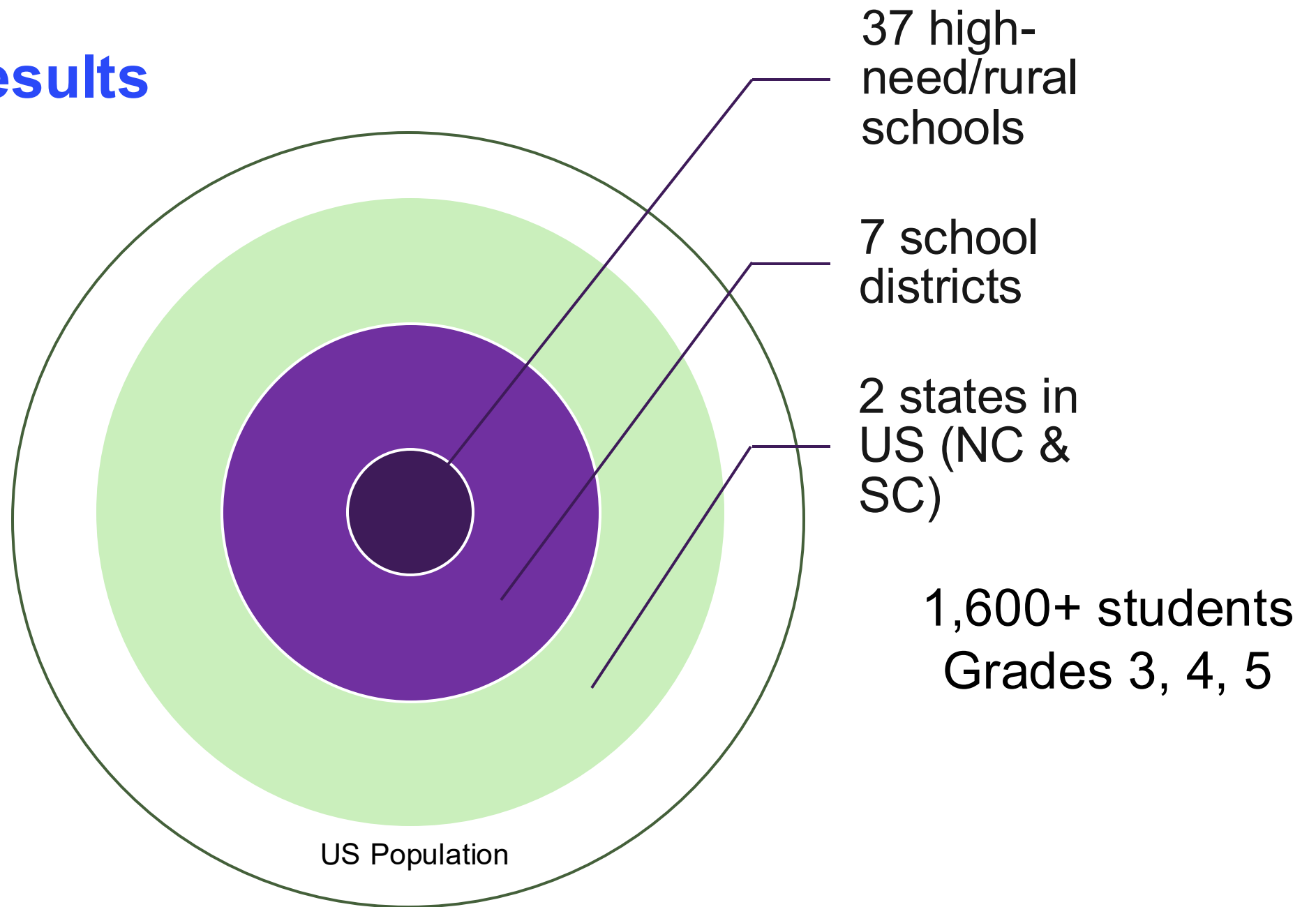
- 5-year longitudinal study of the *Smithsonian Science for the Classroom* curriculum 2019–2024
- Funded by Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Grant
- Externally evaluated by the Center for Research in Educational Policy (CREP) at the University of Memphis
- In collaboration with NC SMT Center led by Dr. Sam Houston

www.ncsmt.org/perspective-smithsonian-brings-power-of-science-to-nc-schools/

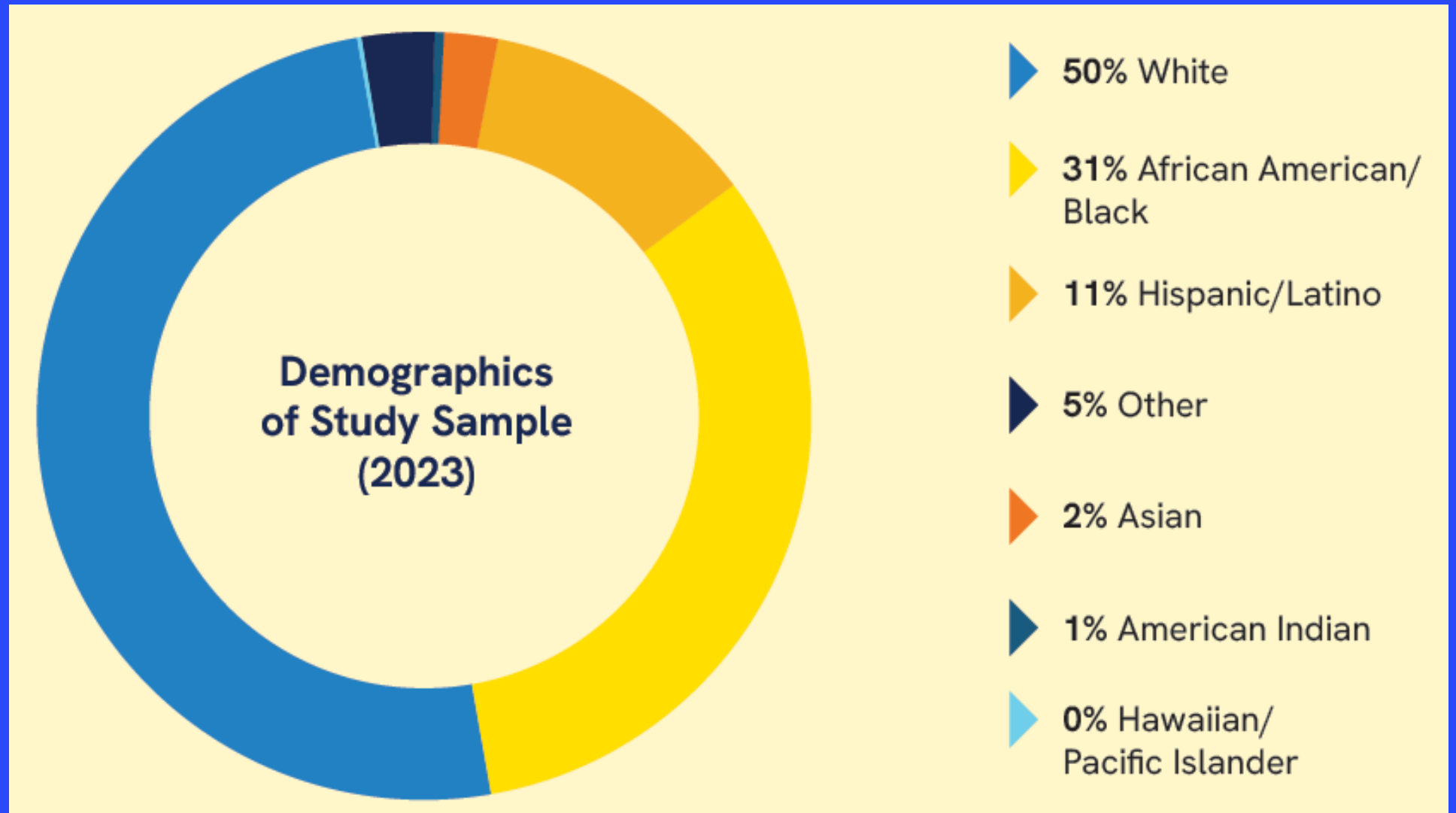
Research Question

Does implementation of *Smithsonian Science for the Classroom* with supporting professional learning improve **student achievement**, particularly achievement of high needs students, in **science, math, and reading** to a statistically significant extent, relative to “business as usual”?

Proven Results



Demographics



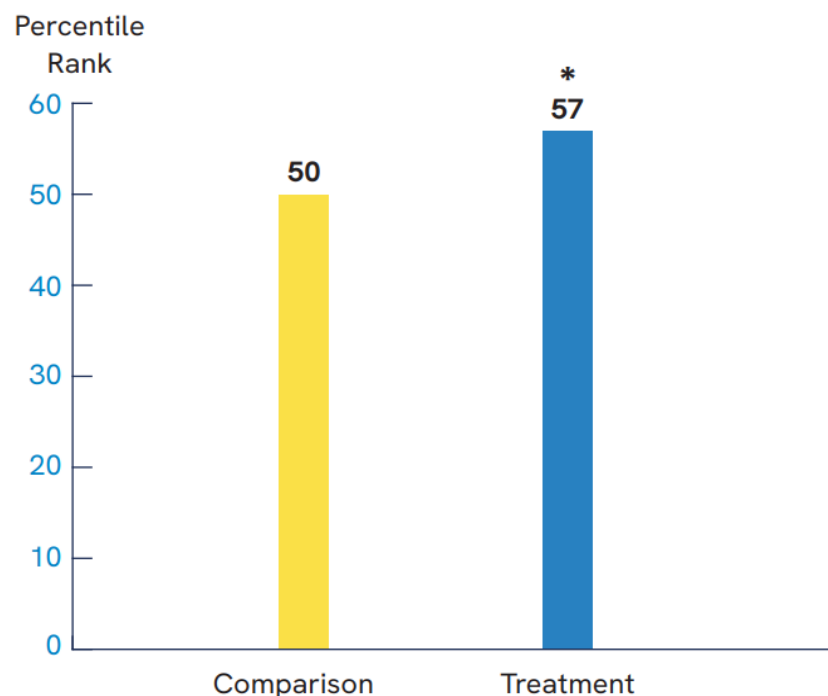
- ▶ Aligned with state science standards
- ▶ Research-based and/or externally validated
- ▶ Comprehensive to include engaging texts, tasks, and assessments
- ▶ Based on fostering vibrant student learning experiences
- ▶ Culturally relevant, free from bias
- ▶ Accessible for all students

- ▶ Content focused
- ▶ Incorporates active learning
- ▶ Supports collaboration
- ▶ Models effective practice
- ▶ Provides coaching
- ▶ Offers opportunities for reflection
- ▶ Sustained duration



Positive and Statistically Significant Findings: Stanford-10 Science

Science – All Students (Percentile)



Smithsonian Science for the Classroom curriculum improved outcomes in the treatment group by **7 percentile points**.

Comparison $N = 838$

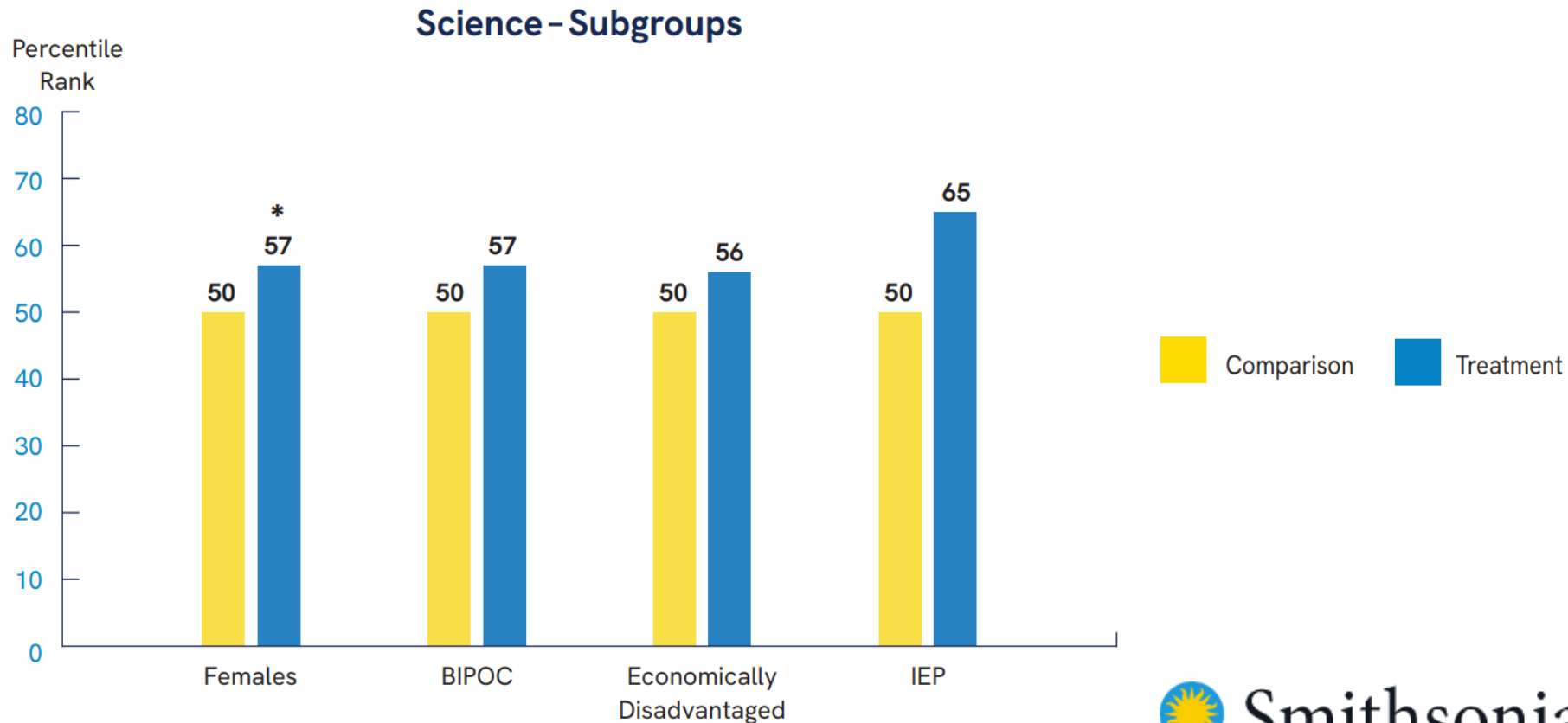
Treatment $N = 913$



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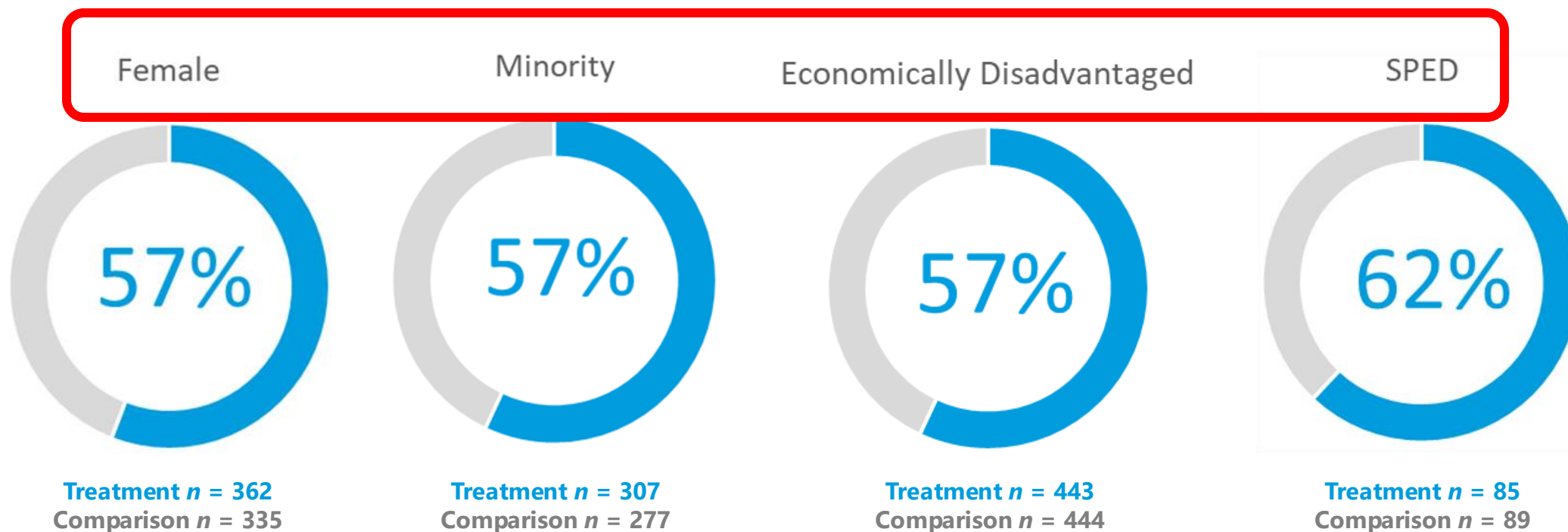
Positive Subgroup Findings: Stanford-10 Science



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Positive Subgroup Findings: Stanford-10 Science



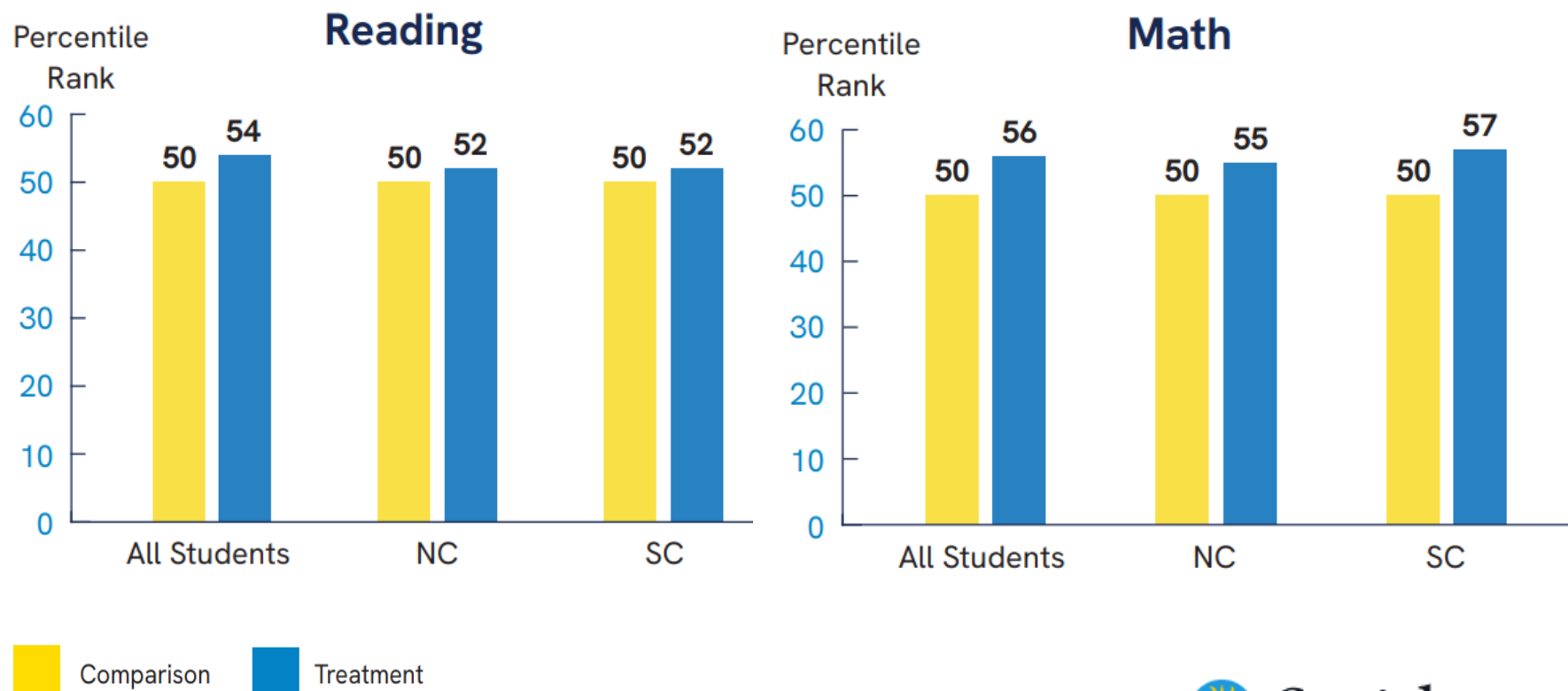
Average treatment student (50th percentile) percentile rank in the comparison group.



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Positive Findings: State Reading and Math



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From Conference to Classroom



Resources

Explore workshop materials online, pacing and buying guides, safety resources, free class activities, and more!

