

# Physical Science Readers: Investigating Electromagnetism

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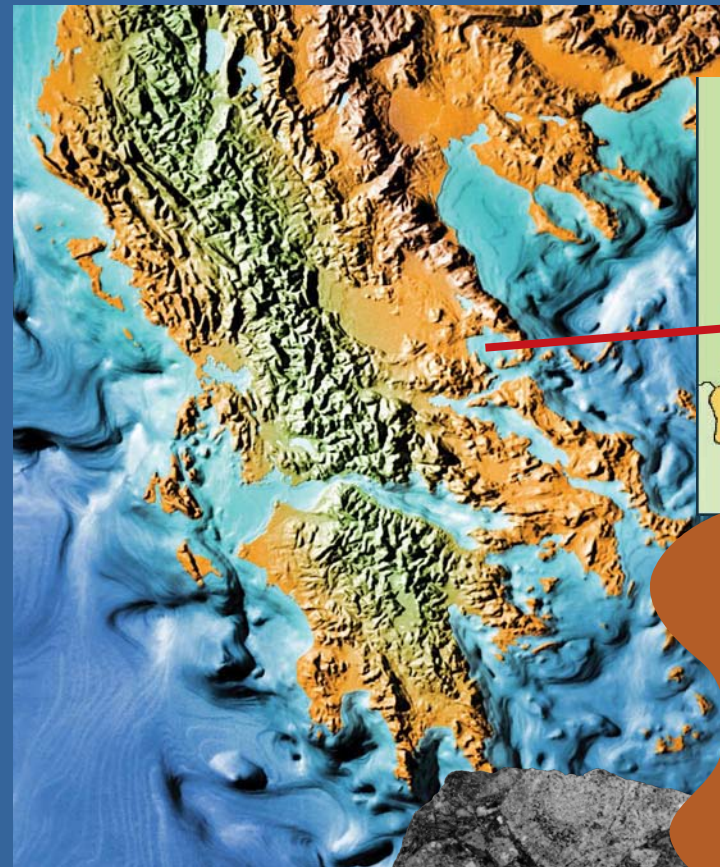
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# The Electromagnetic Force

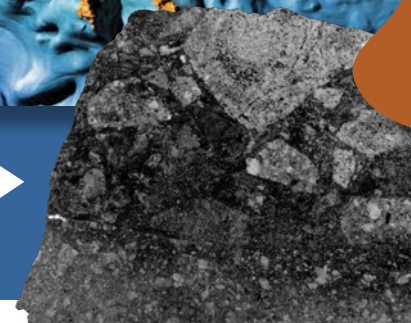
You may not know it, but you use **electromagnets** (uh-lek-troh-MAG-nuhts) many times every day. They are everywhere. They produce **electricity** (uh-lek-TRIS-i-tee) for homes. **Magnetism** is used to store data in computers. Electromagnets bring pictures to television screens. Nearly everything we do is affected by electromagnets. Without them, the world would be very different.

Electromagnetism is a powerful force. It is the combined power of electricity and magnetism.



## Where Magnets Got Their Name

Lodestone was very common in Magnesia (mag-NEE-zuh). **Magnets** were named after this area of Greece.



A piece of magnetite, also known as lodestone. →

People have always been curious about electricity and magnetism. The ancient Chinese and Greeks observed magnetism in a mineral called **lodestone**. Lodestone attracts tiny bits of iron.

In 1752, Benjamin Franklin wrote a paper on what might happen in an experiment in which one flew a kite in a storm. There's no proof that he actually did it. Others did, and they electrocuted themselves more often than not!

← Benjamin Franklin and what he might have looked like while experimenting with electricity in a storm