

Magnetism

A Very Short Introduction

By Stephen Blundell

Questions for Thought and Discussion

- How do magnets work?
- How has our understanding of the answer to the first question changed over time?
- How many magnets or magnetic materials do you own? (Remember to include everything containing a motor or loudspeaker or transformer.)
- What do you think is the most significant application of magnetism?
- What contribution or contributions do you think magnetism has made to the modern world?
- Which scientist made the most important contribution to our understanding of magnetism?
- How much information does humanity need to store? And what part does magnetism play in information storage?
- How has the invention of the microphone and the loudspeaker changed the way we live?
- What impact has the study of magnetism had on the development of modern physics?
- What does Maxwell's theory of electromagnetism tell you about the way in which electricity and magnetism interact?
- Why are planets and stars magnetic?
- Does the magnetism of the Earth help or hinder?
- How has the Earth's magnetism changed over time?
- How do animals respond to magnetism?
- Why do theories about magnetic therapy and magnetic healing remain of considerable popular interest?
- Do you think fusion will ever work as a practical method of generating power?
- Why has the phenomenon of magnetism always generated a child-like fascination in all who encounter it?

Other Books by the Author

Superconductivity: A Very Short Introduction. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009)

Magnetism in Condensed Matter. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001)

Further Reading

P. Fara, *Fatal Attraction* (New York: MJF Books, 2005)

F.A.J.L. James, *Michael Faraday: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010)

H.W. Meyer, *A History of Electricity and Magnetism* (Norwalk, CT: Burndy Library, 1972)

J.B. Zirker *Magnetic Universe* (Baltimore, John Hopkins University Press, 2009)