

SPOOKTACULAR Explore it!

Dancing Ghost and Bat

Time: 20 minutes

Have you ever reached for the door handle and received a shock? Why do you think that happens? Energy is all around us in the form of positive (protons) and negative (electrons) charges. They like to match up to become neutrally charged. When the charges are out of balance a reaction occurs causing static electricity.

Use this energy to make a ghost rise up in thin air and dance. After supercharging your balloon, your ghost should come alive in this awesome experiment. So, let's get dancing!

Materials List

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|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. White and black tissue paper | 5. Balloon or 1.5' PVC pipe piece |
| 2. Scissors | 6. Black marker |
| 3. Ghost and bat template | 7. Pencil |
| 4. Tape | 8. Paper |
| | 9. Head of hair or piece of wool material |

Instructions

1. Print the ghost and bat template and cut out images
2. Place ghost template on white tissue paper and the bat on black tissue paper.
3. Trace ghost and bat image onto tissue paper with pencil and cut out images.
4. Use marker to make face of ghost.
5. Tape bottom edges of the ghost and the bat to a flat surface.
6. Blow up a balloon and tie it off.
7. Rub balloon quickly on someone's hair for at least 10 seconds. If using PVC pipe, rub pipe quickly with wool material.
8. Hold balloon above the ghost and lower it slowly until the ghost starts to rise. If the ghost doesn't rise, try rubbing the balloon again on the hair and repeat.



Table Talk

What is making the ghost rise toward the balloon? Which has a positive charge and which has the negative charge? What happens if you put the balloon above the ghost without rubbing it on your hair first? What would happen to the ghost or bat if you didn't tape them down? Try it!

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