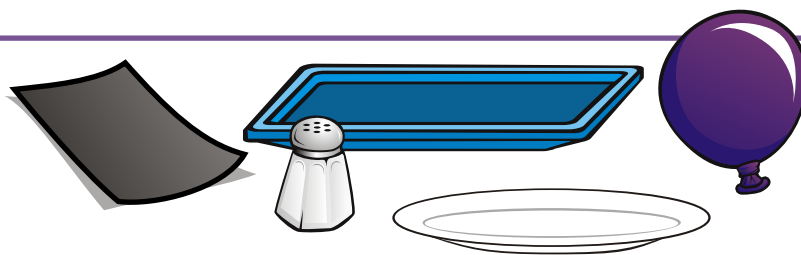


What you need:

- Dark construction paper
- Tray
- Salt
- Balloon
- Foam plate



What you do:

Step 1: Place the construction paper on the tray.

Step 2: Sprinkle a thin layer of salt on top of the construction paper.

Step 3: Rub the inflated balloon with the foam plate to build up a static charge. Lower the portion of the balloon that you rubbed over the salt. What do you see?

Step 1-2:



Step 3a:



Step 3b:



What's going on:

When you rub the balloon on the foam plate it becomes negatively charged. The foam plate gives many of its negatively charged electrons to the balloon's surface when they are rubbed together. Salt is ionic, which means that it has a positive part and a negative part. Opposites attract, so the positive part of the salt is attracted to the now negatively charged balloon. This is an example of something called static electricity.

Now try this:

Replace the salt with other small substances. Try sugar, flour, or sand. Do they jump like the salt?