

Polarity

When a magnet is dipped into iron filings they stick to the ends or poles of the magnet.

A freely hanging magnet comes to rest pointing in a north-south direction. The end of the magnet pointing north is called a north-seeking or north-pole. The opposite end pointing south is called a south-seeking or south-pole.

A compass can be used to identify the poles of the magnet.

If a pole of another magnet is brought close to a pole of the suspended magnet it can be seen that:

Like poles repel and unlike poles attract.