

Static Electricity

Activity 6—Bending water

Materials Needed:

- Plastic comb
- Sink with faucet

What To Do:

1. **Turn on the faucet so that the water runs out in a small steady stream.** The stream of water should be about 1/8 inch.
2. **Charge the comb by running it through your hair or rubbing it on a sweater.** When you comb your hair, electrons move from your hair to the comb.
3. **Slowly bring the comb near the stream of water and watch it bend!** Don't let the comb touch the water.



STEAM Connections

When you comb your hair, electrons are transferred from your hair to the comb. This means the comb will have a negative charge. When it is held close to the water stream, the charged comb attracts the water, and the water bends towards the comb.

More to Try: Balloon Hair

Blow up a balloon and rub it against your hair. Electrons are transferred from your hair to the balloon. This means your hair will have a positive charge, and the balloon will have a negative charge. Since the opposite charges are attracted to each other, your hair sticks to the balloon!