Station 1

1. Rub the balloon against the piece of fabric about ten times.
2. Hold the balloon against the fabric.
3. Let go of the balloon. What happens? Does it stick?
4. Try the same thing rubbing the balloon against your shirt. Let go and see what happens.
5. Record your observations.

Station 2

1. Rub the balloon against the fabric or against your shirt around ten times.
2. Hold the balloon close to the aluminum can and watch what happens.
3. Move the balloon slowly away from the can and watch what happens.
4. Record your observations.

Station 3

1. Put the pieces of tissue paper on the table in front of you.
2. Charge up the comb by rubbing it against the fabric or your shirt about ten times.
3. Hold the comb over the small pieces of tissue paper.
4. Record your observations.

Station 4

1. Cut two equal lengths of thread/string and tape them to the top of a door frame in the middle about 1 inch or 2.5 cm apart.
2. Tie each of the balloons to the end of each thread/string so that they are hanging at the same height and are resting next to each other.
3. Rub each of the balloons with the fabric to charge them (one at a time).
4. Let each balloon go and record your observations.
5. Put your hand between the balloons and record your observations.

Fact Check!

When a balloon and a wool or nylon fabric are rubbed together; each will get a different type of electrical charge.

The balloon becomes a negative charge and the fabric becomes a positive charge.

Opposite charges are attracted to each other.

Fact Check!

The can moves toward the balloon.

This is because the balloon has been charged and pulls on the can; which is uncharged.

Opposite charges are attracted to each other.

Fact Check!

The tissue paper was pulled up by the comb.

The comb was charged and the paper was uncharged.

Opposite charges are attracted to each other.

Fact Check!

Both of the balloons became negatively charged once they were rubbed with the fabric.

Because they are both negatively charged, instead of being attracted to each other, they pushed each other away.

Items that are made up of the same material will always take on the same charge.