Drawing Paper
Riddle: What kind of paper can you draw on, but yet never use a pencil nor be an artist? Do this experiment and find out.

What to do: Over one sheet of paper, using an old scissors, cut the steel wool pad into fine small threads. (Be careful of splinters.) Lay the magnet down and place the second sheet of paper over it so that the magnet is underneath in the middle. Now, carefully and evenly, pour the threads onto the sheet over the magnet. Lightly pound the table near the thread-covered sheet with your fist and watch the movement of the threads. Examine the thread patterns through the magnifying glass.

What happens: The fine steel wool threads are drawn to and align themselves around the magnet in a circular pattern.

Why: Definite circular lines of steel threads form around the magnet. This pattern is called the magnetic field of force. The steel threads gather more at the magnet's poles, where the force is greater, and thin out in the middle, where the force is less. This is the same magnetic force that encircles the earth. Since the earth is a giant magnet, all steel and iron objects on its surface will behave this way.

YOU NEED
- two sheets of paper
- old scissors
- steel wool pad
- bar magnet
- magnifying glass