Aluminum Can Polarization

Purpose:

To explain the cause of the interaction between a charged object (either positively- or negatively-charged) and a neutral aluminum pop can.

Getting Ready:

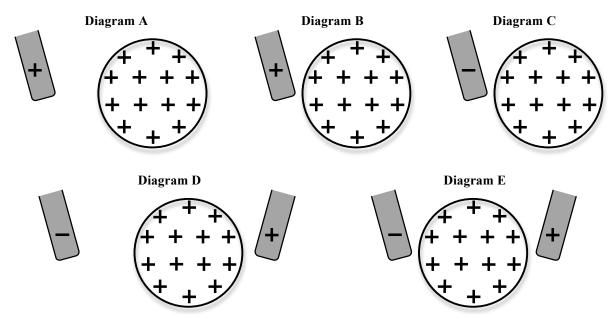
Navigate to the Aluminum Can Polarization Interactive at The Physics Classroom:

http://www.physicsclassroom.com/Physics-Interactives/Static-Electricity/Aluminum-Can-Polarization

Path: Physics Interactives ==> Static Electricity ==> Aluminum Can Polarization

Explore-Interact-Learn:

Investigate the interaction between a glass rod and a rubber rod and the aluminum can. Play with the simulation, moving the rods about the screen and observing the behavior of charges within the pop can. Then complete the models below by shading in the areas where electrons tend to congregate most densely.



Conclusion:

Describe what must happen inside of an aluminum can in order for it to be attracted to a positively-charged and to a negatively-charged object.