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## Comment on gc-2021-41

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Community comment on "Magnetic to the Core – communicating palaeomagnetism with hands-on activities" by Annique van der Boon et al., Geosci. Commun. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/gc-2021-41-CC1>, 2022

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Compliments to the authors and the Magnetic to the Core team. As stated in the article, the goal is to present Earth science/paleomagnetism outreach activities that can “easily be adapted and emulated to fit other countries, labs and audiences” (lines 75-76). We have had great success trying out the ‘Rock or Choc’ activity here in Aotearoa New Zealand and have used it with preschool and primary school groups, as well as with conference attendees at a family-friendly afternoon tea/outreach event. In the preschool setting some te reo Māori (Māori language) has been incorporated into the activity. The availability, portability and robustness of the Bartington MS2 magnetic susceptibility meter makes ‘Rock or choc’ a particularly simple/accessible outreach activity to carry out. We have not done any formal evaluations, but our observations support article’s findings that ‘Rock or choc’ is popular will all ages. ‘Rock or choc’ has inspired us to develop additional outreach activities using some of the other MS2 probe attachments.

The ‘Rock or choc’ learning outcome that “Different materials have different magnetic properties” is a key piece of science knowledge/curriculum. It's interesting that only 7/210 of your respondents mentioned this as ‘one thing...learned from the stand’ (section 3.1/Figure 9), especially when ‘Rock or choc’ was the most popular activity. Is this because it was considered common knowledge in comparison to the other options? In our experience with ‘Rock or choc’ (where it was the sole activity), children as young as five years old were questioning why. We are working on a simple graphic (sign for the table) that shows what’s going on with diamagnetic vs ferromagnetic materials.

Thank you again for sharing the Magnetic to the Core activities with the paleomagnetism community.

(Just a small note on a typo: Figure 3 caption – Chock should be Choc.)