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Notes to the Future

The Magnetic Pendulum

This exhibit has its advantages and it has its disadvantages. First, the bad news. We had not yet covered this unit in class when we had to choose our exhibit. Make sure to do your research. I'm not sure if it always ends up this way, but we did start this unit in the weeks leading up to ExploratoRio. This exhibit only really demonstrates one (yet the most important) element of electromagnetism, so it should not be that hard to understand after browsing the internet. Another disadvantage was that everything in the exhibit needed to be very precise, or else the "pendulum" would not work as well. Just make sure to use trial-and-error and find the right spots for each aspect.

Nonetheless, the exhibit does have some major positives to it. First and foremost, all, and I mean all, the materials are provided for by Mr. Baird. All it takes to finish this project is to experiment with the exhibit when you are called in to see Mr. Baird, do a little research, and write the necessary paperwork. No building or shopping at all. Also, although we can't say for sure, because this is a more complex topic and it uses advance apparatus, it seems that this exhibit may be worth a lot of CTF for the little work it entails as far as set up and materials go. Finally, this is a pretty cool trick. It seems like magic, in fact, to the elementary school children and to anyone not versed in the laws of physics. In all, I would recommend this exhibit to anyone for its ease and for the phenomenon that it creates.