

Glossary



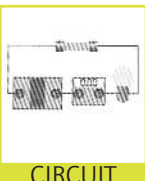
Something which stores energy and releases it when we need it. Some batteries can be re-charged.

BATTERY



Electricity isn't free! It has to be made (or "generated") then delivered to your home or school through the National Grid. You have to pay an electricity bill every three months to cover the cost of this.

BILL



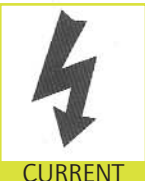
A circuit is needed for an electric current to flow. It takes the current from the source of the electricity (whether it is a battery or a power station) and back again.

CIRCUIT



A material which allows electricity to flow. Most metals are good conductors. The opposite of a conductor is an "insulator".

CONDUCTOR



This is the word we use to describe how much electricity is flowing in a circuit. It's the same word that we use to describe the flow of water.

CURRENT



The fossil fuels are coal, oil and gas. They were formed millions of years ago and are burned to produce heat in power stations.

FOSSIL FUELS



A deliberate "weak link" in an electrical circuit. A fuse is a metal strip or wire which will melt if too much current passes through the circuit and so prevent damage to equipment.

FUSE



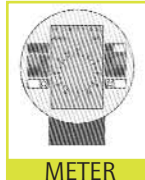
A machine for making electricity. If you have a dynamo to make your bicycle lights work, that's a generator.

GENERATOR



A material which doesn't allow electricity to flow. Plastic is a good insulator. Wires which carry electricity are wrapped in plastic to make sure that we don't get an electric shock.

INSULATOR



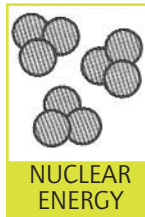
Your electricity meter tells you how much electricity you have used. Your electricity company will read the numbers on the meter every three months, so they know how much to charge you.

METER



A huge network of wires and cables which bring electricity from a power station into our homes, schools, shops and factories.

NATIONAL GRID



One way of providing the heat for a power station is to use a metal called uranium. When small particles of uranium (called "atoms") split apart, they release a lot of heat.

NUCLEAR ENERGY



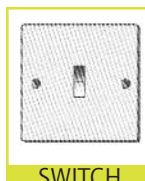
A place where electricity is made (or "generated"). Most power stations use heat to turn water into steam. The steam drives a turbine which makes the electricity.

POWER STATION



Electricity can be made by using the power of water or wind to turn a turbine. Because we aren't going to run out of water or wind, this is called renewable energy.

RENEWABLE ENERGY



A way of turning the electric flow (or "current") on and off.

SWITCH



A turbine is like a big fan. It is used in power stations to turn a magnet inside a coil of wire. This makes electricity.

TURBINE

Please photocopy this page to help your class find out more about the dangers of electricity

Safety Signs

Electricity can be dangerous and everybody should be able to recognise the black and yellow electricity safety signs.

The electricity safety signs below can be seen in places where people work, such as factories, farms, building sites, railway lines and roads. They are sometimes near places where children play

Can you think of other places where signs like these can be seen?

Are there any words that you don't understand on these signs?

For example do you know what the word hazard means?

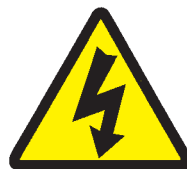
How would you describe an electrified fence?

What happens when somebody gets an electric shock?

Ask your teacher to describe what these signs mean.



**Mains
switch**



**Electrical
hazard**



**Danger
Electrified fence**



**Danger
Buried cables**



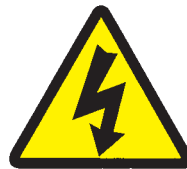
**Danger
Electric
shock risk**



**Danger
Overhead cables**



**Danger
440 Volts**



**Danger
Live wires**



**Danger
Electricution risk**



**Danger
High voltage**