

HISTORIC ELECTRICITY GAME



Students will investigate how electricity plays a role in their everyday choices and activities. This activity is all about having students understand how much they rely on electricity on a daily basis.

Instructions:

Have students pair off. On a piece of paper have each pair make a list of 20-30 items they use, and 5-10 activities they do, on a daily basis. Do not tell them that this is about energy or electricity! Item examples: iPads, books, pencils, pens, electric tooth brush, hair dryers, etc. Activity examples: brushing your teeth, blow drying your hair, etc.

Have the students share their lists with the class or other students. As a group, discuss which items and activities use some form of electricity.

Benjamin Franklin had his famous kite experiment in 1752, so have students pretend to be living in a time before then, such as the year 1601. Have them discuss in pairs how many of the items on their list they would not be able to use without electricity. As well, have them discuss how many activities they would not be able to do. Get them to total up their electric-reliant items and activities, and compare the totals together. See if there are any items that all or most students use and discuss how they think they could reduce their usage of these items. As well, see if there are any activities that all or most students do and discuss how they think they can reduce their electricity consumption. Additionally, consider any activities that today use electricity but in the past did not.

This activity can be used for various grades from 3-9 however, there are direct curriculum links to the Grade 6 and Grade 9 Science outcomes.

CURRICULUM LINKS:

Grade 6 Science

Specific Curriculum Outcomes:

- Uses for Electricity - Pretend you live in the days before electricity. In your journal, write about your activities. Be sure to refer to activities for which we would use electricity today. (107-9, 106-4, 108-2, 303-31)
- Describe how our actions could lead to reducing electrical energy consumption in your environment (108-5, 108-8, 303-30, 106-3)

Grade 9 Science

- Compare examples of past and present technologies that used current electricity to meet similar needs (110-9)