



Year 4 - Electricity

Physics

Key vocabulary

Battery	A single portable electricity supply.
Bulb	Part of a circuit that gives out light.
Cell	The scientific name for more than one battery.
Circuit	The path followed by an electric current. Electricity must flow in a circuit to do useful work.
Components	The items that make up a circuit.
Conductor	A material that electricity can travel through.
Insulator	A material that electricity cannot travel through.
Mains	The electricity that comes from a socket in the wall.
Rechargeable	A battery that we can put electricity back into.
Switch	A component that turns a circuit on or off.
Terminals	The ends of a battery. One is positive and one is negative.
Wires	Used to connect components together.

Circuit symbols

Bulb	Battery	Cell	Wire	Switch (On)	Switch (Off)

Everyday Electrical Appliances

Mains	Battery
Power stations send an electric charge through wires to transformers and pylons. Then, underground wires carry the electricity to our homes via walls in the walls and out through plug sockets.	Batteries store chemicals which produce an electric current. Eventually, even rechargeable batteries will stop producing electric current and run out.

Who is Thomas Edison?

Edison's most famous invention was the light bulb. However, he did not actually invent it! The light bulb had already been invented, but it burnt out very quickly and so could not provide light for very long, so it was not very useful. Edison created a new light bulb that would stay lit for a long time, so that people could benefit from it.

