



# Year 4 Science Knowledge Organiser: Electricity

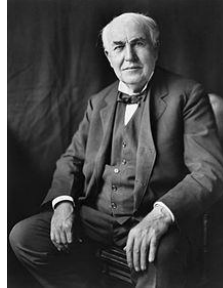


## Key vocabulary

<b>electricity</b>	a form of energy that can be carried by wires and is used for heating and lighting, and to provide power for devices.
<b>bulb</b>	the glass part of an electric lamp, which gives out light when electricity passes through it.
<b>battery</b>	a container of one or more cells in which chemical energy is converted into electrical energy and used as a source of power.
<b>buzzer</b>	an electrical device that is used to make a buzzing sound .
<b>cells</b>	a cell is a single unit used for converting chemical or solar energy into electricity.
<b>circuit</b>	a complete route which an electric current can flow around.
<b>switch</b>	a small control for an electrical device which you use to turn the device on or off.
<b>wires</b>	a long thin piece of metal that is used to fasten things or to carry electric current.
<b>motor</b>	a device that uses electricity or fuel to produce movement.
<b>conductors</b>	a substance that heat or electricity can pass through or along.
<b>insulators</b>	a non-conductor of electricity or heat.
<b>electrical appliances</b>	an electrical device or machine in your home that you use to do a job such as cleaning or cooking.
<b>mains</b>	where the supply of water, electricity, or gas enters a building.
<b>component</b>	the parts that something is made of.
<b>current</b>	a flow of electricity through a wire or circuit.
<b>energy</b>	the power from sources such as electricity that makes machines work or provides heat.

## Focus scientists

**Thomas Edison** (1847–1931) was an American inventor and businessman. He developed many devices in fields such as electric power generation, mass communication, sound recording, and motion pictures. These inventions, which include the phonograph, the motion picture camera, and early versions of the electric light bulb. He also developed the National Power grid.



**Lewis Howard Latima** (1848-1928-) was the son of slaves whose parents managed to escape from a slave trader. He went on to become an electrical engineer who improved Thomas Edison's light bulb design and developed the electric street lighting system.



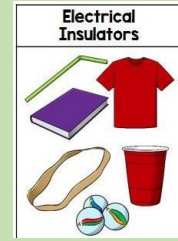
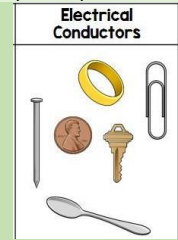
## Key Knowledge

### Which appliances run on electricity?

Common appliances that use electricity are: toasters, lamps, kettles, laptops, games consoles, phones, torches, TVs, washing machines and irons.  
Some appliances use batteries and some use mains electricity. Batteries can vary greatly in size, shape and power.

### What are electrical conductors and insulators?

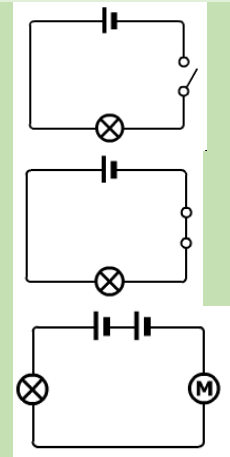
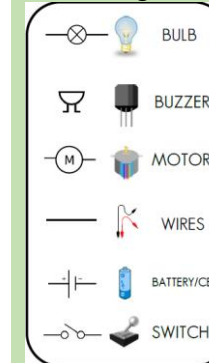
An electrical conductor lets electricity pass through it. They are often metal (e.g. iron, copper and gold) but also include carbon and water. As our bodies are 18% carbon, electricity is very dangerous to us and because water is a very good conductor of electricity we mustn't use electrical appliances near it! An insulator doesn't let electricity pass through it, e.g. wood, leather and plastic. Plastic is used to cover electrical wires because it is a good insulator.



### How does a circuit work?

In a series circuit all the components are joined together and the electricity can only flow in one direction - You must learn the different symbols for the different components. Switches can be used to open and close circuits.

### Circuit diagram symbols





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