

Name _____

What Is Electricity?

Science Words

Say each word quietly to yourself. Then read the meaning.

Read the tip to help you remember.

static electricity [STAT•ik ee•lek•TRIS•uh•tee] a build up of electrical charges

Static and *still* begin with the same sounds. If something is static it is still, not moving. *Static electricity* is electrical charges that build up in an object. *Static electricity* does not flow.

electric current [uh•LEK•trik KER•uhnt] the flow of electric charges

A current in a river or the ocean is water that flows in a particular direction. An *electric current* is electric charges that flow along a path, such as a wire.

What Is Electricity?

Science Concepts

Read the Ideas more than once. Do your best to remember them.

1. Electric charge is a property of a particle that affects how it behaves around other particles.
2. Protons have a positive charge; electrons have a negative charge; neutrons have no charge.
3. Atoms with the same number of protons and electrons have no charge.
4. An atom that gains an electron has a charge of -1; an atom that loses an electron becomes +1.
5. Electrons move between things that touch each other, such as between a carpet and your shoes.
6. Objects with opposite charges attract one another, like clothes coming out of a dryer.
7. Objects with like charges push away from one another, like strands of hair after you brush it.
8. Static electricity is the buildup of electric charges in an object.
9. An electrostatic discharge occurs when electrons jump between objects with opposite charges.
10. Electric current, which flows along a wire, can do useful things such as lighting rooms and cooking food.