Electricity: Circuits

Useful Vocabulary

appliance	a piece of equipment designed to do a particular job
complete	having no gaps
device	a piece of equipment designed to do a particular job
flow	continuous movement
function	the purpose of something
electrical conductor	a material that allows electricity to flow through it
electrical insulator	a material that does not allow electricity to flow through it
electricity	what is required to make an electrical appliance work
circuit	components required to enable electricity to flow
closed circuit	a circuit that creates a complete loop, so the electricity can flow
connection point	places on electrical components where wires can be attached
open circuit	a circuit that does not create a complete loop, so the electricity cannot flow

Components (Parts) Vocabulary

cell: Normally, we would call this a battery but scientifically, this is a cell. Two or more cells joined together form a battery.

bulb: Lights up in a complete circuit.

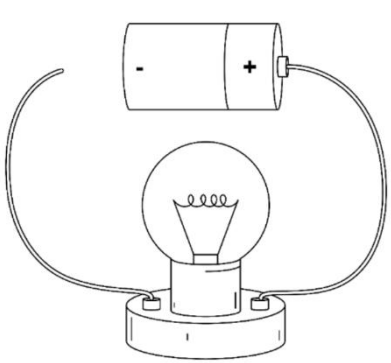
buzzer: Makes a noise in a complete circuit.

wires: Used to connect the different components in the circuit together.

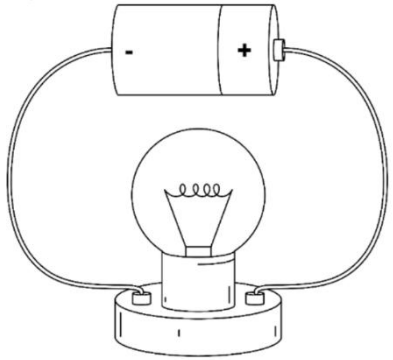
motor: Produces movement in a complete circuit.

switch: Used to turn other components in the circuit on or off.

Creating a complete loop allows electricity

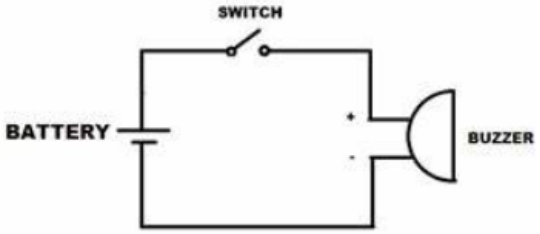


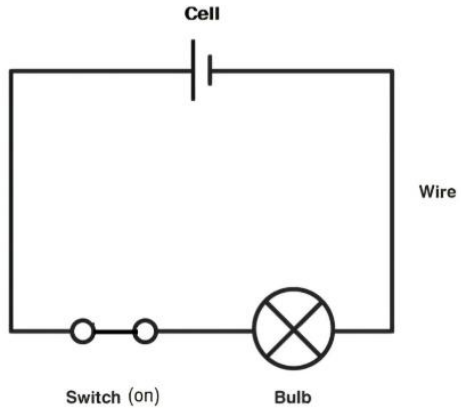
Incomplete circuit



Complete circuit

Diagrams show closed and open circuits





Materials are conductors or insulators

Materials can be tested in a circuit to see if they are **electrical conductors** or **electrical insulators**.

10p = metal = **electrical conductors**

test circuit

ruler = plastic = **electrical insulators**