Electrical Circuits

CONTENTS

Glossary

atom building block of matter

attract to pull toward each other

battery source of electrical energy

battery terminal place on a battery where electric charge enters or leaves the battery

circuit path along which electric current flows

closed circuit complete path along which an electric current flows

conductor material through which electric current passes easily

discharge jumping of electric charges between two objects

electrical energy one form of energy; energy is needed to do work

electric charge property of matter; charge can be positive or negative

electric current flow of electric charges

electricity electrical energy

electric motor device that changes electrical energy into mechanical energy

electromagnet temporary magnet made when electric current flows through a wire wrapped around an iron core

energy ability to do work

filament part of a light bulb that glows when electric current passes through it

generator machine that uses an energy source and a magnet to make electricity

insulator material through which electric current does not pass easily

magnet object that pulls iron and steel objects to it

magnetic field space around a magnet where magnetism acts

magnetic poles places on a magnet where the magnetism is the strongest

magnetism force around a magnet

open circuit circuit in which electric current cannot flow because the path is not complete

parallel circuit circuit that connects several objects in a way that the current for each object has its own path

repel to push away from each other

resistance how well electricity flows through a material

series circuit circuit that connects several objects one after the other so that the current flows in a single path

static electricity electricity at rest, that is produced by rubbing two objects together

switch device used to start and stop the flow of electric current in a circuit

volt unit used to measure voltage

voltage push that moves electric charges from one place to another

watt unit used to measure the energy used by an appliance in a certain amount of time