

Vocabulary: Circuit Builder



Vocabulary

- Circuit – a path containing mobile charges.
- Closed circuit – a circuit that has a complete path for charge to flow.
- Conductor – a material that contains easily moveable charges.
- Current – the flow of electrical charge.
 - In a metal wire, current is the flow of negatively charged particles (electrons).
 - In a battery, your body, or other wet places, current is the flow of both positive and negative charges.
 - When current flows through a closed circuit, charges flow in a complete loop through the wire and battery.
- Fuse – a safety device that melts when current is too high, breaking a circuit.
- Insulator – a material that does not contain easily moveable charges.
- Open circuit – a circuit that has a break that prevents the flow of current.
- Parallel circuit – a circuit that contains two or more branches.
- Series circuit – a circuit where moving charges can only follow a single path.
- Short circuit – an unwanted electrical connection with very low resistance to current.
 - Short circuits can produce high levels of current and dangerously high temperatures.