



What happens in a power cut?

How to use the worksheet



Ask the children what happens in a power cut and how this affects homes. They should think about how we rely on electricity for many everyday activities, and how to manage without it. One way to begin might be to list these activities.



Ask them to think of ways of overcoming these problems. Examples include:

- ⚡ Keeping fridges and freezers closed as much as possible.
- ⚡ Having a phone available that does not need an electricity supply, i.e. a charged mobile phone or an analogue corded phone.
- ⚡ Having alternative heating sources (gas heaters, coal or wood-burning fires or stoves) and alternative lighting sources (candles, torches, gaslights, oil lamps, battery lanterns).
- ⚡ Leaving a light switched on to alert when the power returns.
- ⚡ Not leaving candles or gas heaters unattended or too close to flammable materials; making sure electrical appliances are switched off (a hot hob or electric heater could be dangerous if it switches on unexpectedly when a flammable item is near).
- ⚡ Switching off computers and other sensitive equipment to avoid damage from surges when power is restored.
- ⚡ Using a corded phone or a charged mobile phone to access the power company's website.

National Curriculum

This activity supports work in:

ENGLISH

En3 Writing

2a-b) Planning and drafting
Breadth of study: 9d) To review and comment on what has been read, seen or heard, focusing on both the topic and the writer's view of it.

Also supports work in:

PSHE/ CITIZENSHIP

Developing a healthy safer lifestyle:

3e) To recognise the different risks in different situations and then decide how to behave responsibly.

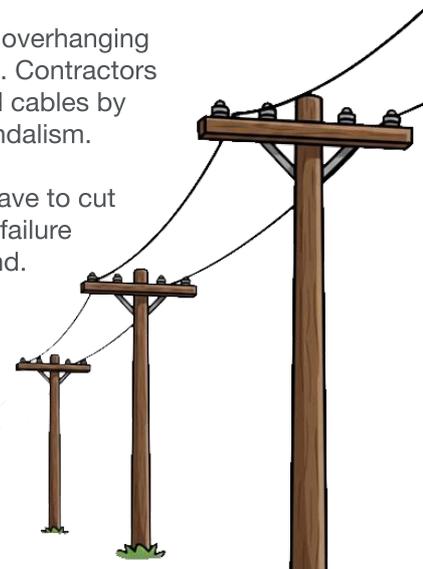
3g) Rules about health and safety, basic emergency aid procedures and where to get help.

Breadth of opportunity:

5h) Find information and advice.

Key electricity facts

- ⚡ A power cut can have various causes. Wind or overhanging trees can cause overhead wires to short-circuit. Contractors digging holes sometimes damage underground cables by accident or equipment is damaged through vandalism.
- ⚡ Very occasionally, an electricity company will have to cut off the supply to some areas if there is a major failure in generation or an unexpected surge in demand.
- ⚡ More commonly, the power is turned off to carry out planned maintenance work that will help to prevent unexpected power cuts.



What do you rely on for electricity in your home?



Can you advise people?

During a power cut it can be difficult to manage without electricity.

Collect ideas for an instruction leaflet to advise people how to manage without electricity and how to be ready for when it is switched back on. Write on the notepads below. Then write your leaflet.

FRIGES AND FREEZERS

PHONES

LIGHTING

KEEPING WARM

HOW WILL YOU KNOW WHEN THE ELECTRICITY IS BACK ON?

KEEPING COMPUTERS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT SAFE WHEN THE ELECTRICITY SUDDENLY COMES BACK



Highlight anything that might be dangerous during or after a power cut.

Add a 'Stay safe' instruction box to your leaflet.