



energy

4 What Can You Learn?

a - What was it like?

Purpose

To investigate life without electricity

Key concepts

There was a time before electricity.

Energy is all around us, but we do not always recognise it. Energy is the power that drives heat, light, sound, movement and growth.

Key questions

- How did people live before electricity was available?
- What would be different in your life if there was no electricity?

Evaluate/Reflect

- What changes would you need to make to your life to live without electricity?
- How would you feel about living without electricity?
- What might be some of the positive changes in a life without electricity?
- Could you action some of these?

Activities

4a.1 Time before electricity

4a.2 Times change

4a.1 Time Before Electricity

You will need

- Copies of 'Time before electricity' survey sheet
- Tape recorder / video / camera
- Person to interview
- A visit to a museum if possible

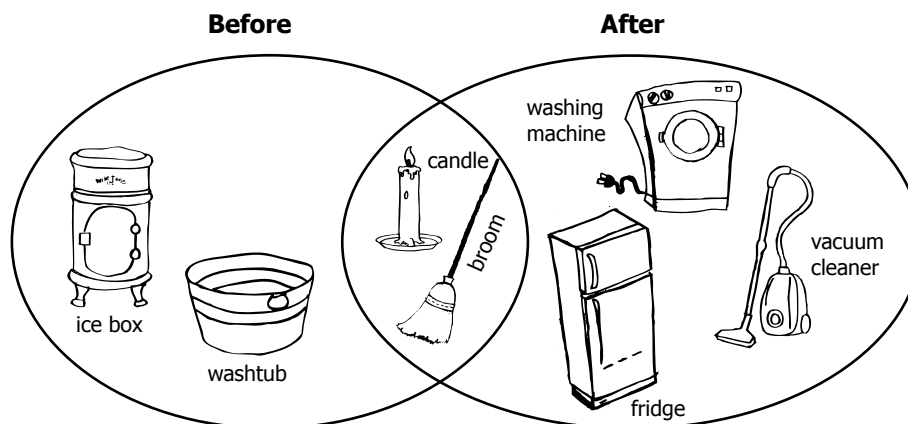
- 1 Introduce the idea that electricity has not always been available. Discuss the alternatives. How do they manage when there is a power cut now-a-days?
- 2 Students think of questions to ask about life before electricity.
- 3 Invite an older person into the classroom to answer questions (or have someone acting the part). Build up a picture of the place where they lived, what sort of life they led and the sort of things they enjoyed doing when they were young. If possible, use historical photos or visit a museum to illustrate life in this time.
- 4 Students ask questions and record answers on the record sheet or tape/video the interview.
- 5 Household items could be used to illustrate the difference e.g. hand powered appliances compared with electrical appliances. Students consider how long tasks took and who performed them.
- 6 The 'Times Change' sheet can be used to illustrate the changes.

Evaluate/Reflect

- Imagine a day without electricity. What would you do if you could not use electrical appliances for a day? What would you miss most? What would you miss least?









Extensions

- Students use the same questions and develop a questionnaire to interview a relative, friend or neighbour
- The results of the survey can be collated and displayed using a Venn diagram or simple graphs
- Are there things which were used before electricity that are also used now?



4a.2 Times Change

- 1 Choose 6 things that have changed since electricity has been available.
- 2 Draw pictures to show what happened before electricity and what happens now.

Before electricity	Since electricity
	
	
	
	
	
	
	

- 3 Interview an older person and find out what energy they used when they were the same age as you. If possible talk to someone who remembers when homes didn't have electricity. Ask what appliances they had at home.

In what year were they your age? _____

Where did they live? _____

Electrical appliance	Did they have it in their home?	If they say no, what did they use instead?
Radio		
TV		
Video/DVD		
Computer		
Electric blanket		
Electric heater		
Hot water heater		
Lights		
Toaster		
Electric kettle		
Microwave		
Refrigerator		
Vacuum cleaner		
Iron		
Washing machine		
Clothes dryer		
Dishwasher		