NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

Graphic Organizer

Process or Cycle Chart

An electrical charge is the result of electricity. You can't see,smell, or weigh it. It is matter with a positive (+) or negative (-).Unlike charges attract. Like charges repel. Static electricity is the build up of electrical charges on an object. Electrical discharges build up, too many on an object and transfer when something touches it causing a shock.

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Conductors are things that transfer heat or electricity easily.(metal) An insulator does not let heat or electricity move through it easily.(wood, rubber,plastic, glass) Energy can come from the sun(solar) or the wind (windmill).

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A flow of electrical charges is called an electrical current. Electrical currents keep moving. The path electricity flows on is called a circuit. A simple circuit has three parts: connector, power source, and a load. Some have a switch to turn it on and off. A circuit with no breaks or openings is called a closed circuit. If it has openings or breaks, it is an open circuit.(no electricity will flow)

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A series circuit has everything going in one pathway. If you remove one bulb in the series circuit, it will not work anymore. A parallel circuit flows in more than one path. If one of the bulbs blows or is removed, it still works. Our houses have parallel circuits.

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The amount of electrical current that can flow through a circuit depends on voltage and resistance. Voltage is the strength of a power source. Resistance is the ability of a substance to oppose or slow down electrical current. A short circuit is a path with almost no resistance.

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