

Be the Battery [Activity]

This activity should be done only after students have completed “An Open and Short Case.” Material covered in this activity assumes an understanding of open and short circuits. This activity affords students an opportunity to “feel” what it is like to be a battery. Well, they feel how much effort is required to power a simple electric circuit.

Answers to Procedure Questions

1. Crank the generator more rapidly; this requires more effort.
2. It gets easy to crank; effort goes down.
3. Open circuit.
4. Low electrical resistance.
5. It gets difficult to crank; effort increases.
6. Short circuit.
7. High electrical resistance.
8. Parallel is harder to power.

Answers to Summing Up Questions

1. Low electrical circuits are harder to power.
2. Series; it's easier to power so it has more electrical resistance.
3. Low resistance circuits.
4. Series.