

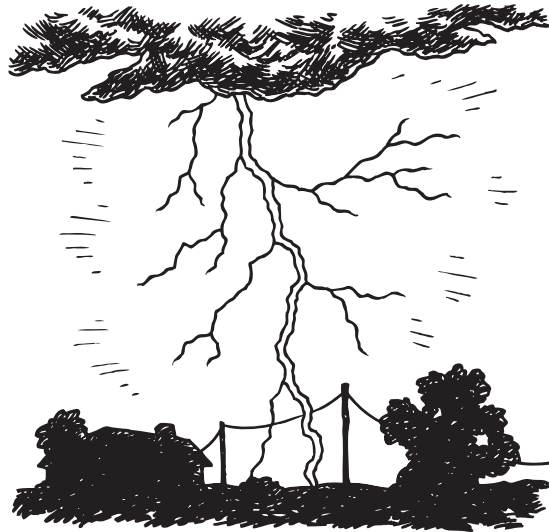
# Electricity

**Directions:** Read the passage and answer the questions below.

We use electricity every day. We use it to light lamps, run the dryer, and toast our bread. We need it for our computers and TVs. There are times that we need more electricity than can be made. All electricity gets generated in a power plant. When we try and use more electricity than the plant can produce at one time, we have blackouts. The power goes off completely.

Wires carry electricity from power plants to your home. Some things, like copper, let electricity flow through them. These are called conductors. Electric wires are copper. Other things, like rubber, stop electricity. Power does not pass through them. These are called insulators. Copper wires have rubber covers to keep the electricity from leaving the wire.

Lightening is natural electricity. A single lightning bolt has **tremendous** power. It could light up a city for one year. Scientists want to find a way to tap into this natural energy source.



1. **What is a machine that would still work during a power outage (blackout)?**
  - a. an air conditioner
  - b. a battery-powered radio
  - c. a refrigerator
  - d. a television
2. **Why would a large demand for electricity cause a blackout?**
  - a. People can't pay enough money to get the amount of electricity they need.
  - b. A high demand for power creates an explosion at a power plant.
  - c. When the power plant is overwhelmed by demand, it shuts down.
  - d. When the power plant is overwhelmed by demand, it starts using lightning for power.
3. **Of the following choices, which would make a good insulator?**
  - a. rubber boots
  - b. a metal pan
  - c. a lightning rod
  - d. copper wires
4. **The word *tremendous* means . . .**
  - a. very little.
  - b. surprising.
  - c. enormous.
  - d. tiny.