18.3 - Electric Current, Resistance, and Voltage



Bell Work

In the pictures below, in each picture state whether the circles will repel or attract.



Electricity

When we observe how electricity behaves, we can use water flowing thru a garden hose as an analogy.



Electricity

There are three variables which control how an electric circuit behaves:

- 1. Current
- 2. Resistance
- 3. Voltage

Electric Current

Electric Current

Electric Current is the continuous flow of electric charge.

There are two types of current:

- 1. Direct Current (DC)
- 2. Alternating Current (AC)

Electric Current

Direct Current (DC) Electric charge that flows in one direction

Example Battery in a Flashlight

Alternating Current (AC)

A flow of electric charge that regularly reverses its direction

Example

Electricity within a home or school

Electric Current

Garden Hose Analogy How does current relate to the garden hose?

Electrical current flow through a wire is similar to the flow of water through the hose.







Conductors

Conductors

- Materials where charges can easily flow.
- Conductors have atoms that do NOT tightly hold electrons.
- These electrons can easily be drawn away to carry current.

Examples Metals such as copper, silver, aluminum



Insulators

Insulators

- Materials that charge cannot easily flow
- Insulator atoms do not have freely moving electrons
- Does not allow electric charge to be transferred.

Examples: Wood and rubber are good insulators.

Resistance

Resistance

- The opposition to the flow of charges in a material.
- A material's thickness, length, and temperature affect its resistance
- As temperature increases, resistance decreases. Increased temperature frees up and spreads out electrons that current flows through

Resistance

Garden Hose Analogy

How does resistance relate to the garden hose?

Electrical resistance opposes the flow of charges in a wire and the hose can restrict the flow of water thru bending of the hose or a kink in the hose.







More resistanc





Voltage

Voltage

In order for charge to flow in a conducing wire, the wire must be connected to a source of electrical energy.

Example

- 1. Battery
- 2. Generator

Voltage

Garden Hose Analogy

How does voltage relate to the garden hose?

Electrical voltage provides the energy to push the electrons (Current) thru the wire, and a Pump provides energy to create the flow of water through the hose.



Voltage



Current Flow

Current Flow

In order for charge to flow in a conducing wire, the wire must be connected in a complete loop





18.3 Assessment

Question #1 List the two types of electric current?

Direct Current (DC)
Alternating Current (AC)

Question #2

Name two good electrical conductors and two good electrical insulators

18.3 Assessment

Question #3 What are the three variables that affect resistance?

Thickness
Length
Temperature

Question #4 What causes charge to flow?

A source of electrical energy causes charge to flow

18.3 Assessment

Question #5

What is required to have continuous flow of charge in a circuit?

Complete Loop

