



ELECTRIFYING SCIENCE



Dear Educator:

Thank you for choosing to bring your students to the Science Gallery. When you arrive, check in at the box office on the Planetarium level. For payment, you will be required to know the exact number of students and adults in your group.

Store outerwear, lunches, backpacks, etc, in the cloakroom in the lower level. No backpacks in the gallery. The Manitoba Museum is not responsible for loss or theft; valuables should be left at home or school.

For further information, please visit our website www.manitobamuseum.ca or call 988-0626.

Visiting the Science Gallery

After your program, you will be exploring the Science Gallery. Our exhibits are best enjoyed with the assistance of an adult – teachers are asked to divide the class into smaller groups assigned to adult supervisors.

Please note, washrooms and water fountain are located near the *Numbers Game* exhibit. There is no need to leave the gallery during your visit.

Science Gallery Rules

1. No running, please.
2. Out of respect for other classes and visitors, please use indoor voices.
3. Food and drink are not allowed in the gallery. No gum, please.
4. Before entering the Matrix –the room of mirrors– everyone must remove their shoes and put on the slippers provided. Please put your shoes back on your feet when you leave the Matrix.
5. Please read or listen to instructions before trying out the exhibits.

Class control remains the teacher's responsibility.

Please turn off cell phones or set the ring to silent during programs.

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Grade: 6
Cluster: Electricity
Duration: 30 minutes

Program Outline:

A great introduction or follow up to the Electricity cluster. This program focuses on creating electricity and discovering *how* electricity is created. The use of a Van de Graaff generator features in this program, as well as an electromagnet.

Vocabulary

Here is a list of words we use during this program:

Positive charge, negative charge, current electricity, static electricity, electrical circuit, insulator, conductor, electromagnet, magnetic field, electrical energy, battery.

Pre-visit Suggestions:

1. Explain the concept of electricity and how we generate electricity and static electricity.
2. Discuss the idea of attraction and repulsion with regards to static electricity.
3. Create a list of ways we use electricity.

Follow-up Activities

Simple Static

Blow up some balloons and create some static electricity in the hair of some brave volunteers.

Begin by creating friction; rub the balloon on the hair. As you do this, the balloon gathers the positive charges, while the hair gathers the negative charges. The opposing charges are attracted to one another...so when you pull the balloon away, the hair follows.

Try sticking the balloon to a neutral object, such as a wall. What happens? For the best results, choose someone with loose, straight hair. Or have everyone in the class try it. Record your observations and determine which hair type creates the biggest reaction!

