



Curiosity Guide #604

Electric Lights

Accompanies Curious Crew, Season 6, Episode 4 (#604)

Incandescent Flow

Investigation #4

Description

Where is the path of light? Can you find it?

Materials

- Clear light bulbs

Procedure

- 1) Closely examine the inside of the light bulb.
- 2) What parts do you notice?
- 3) Can you figure out the pathway for electricity?

My Results

Explanation

As the electrons travel out of the positive end of the battery, the moving electrons flow to the bulb holder, where the electrons will either pass through the base or side of the bulb, then across the filament. Then the electrons exit the bulb from the other contact and travel back to the negative end of the battery.

Because filaments are so delicate, there is often a glass mount and support wires that try to hold the filament still. You may have seen someone shake a bulb while listening to the sound. If the filament breaks, you can hear the filament jingle in the bulb, and of course the light no longer works.

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