

Name: _____ Date: _____

Student Exploration: Circuit Builder

Vocabulary: circuit, closed circuit, conductor, current, electron, fuse, insulator, open circuit, parallel circuit, series circuit, short circuit

Prior Knowledge Questions (Do these BEFORE using the Gizmo.)

1. What do a light bulb, a toaster, a radio, and a computer all have in common? _____

2. Suppose you connect a battery to a small light bulb with a single wire. What do you think will happen? Explain your answer.

Gizmo Warm-up: Build a circuit

1. Using the **Standard components** in the upper left of the Gizmo™, try to get a light bulb to light up. You can drag as many bulbs, wires, batteries, switches and fuses as you like onto the circuit board.



A **circuit** is a path containing easily moveable charges. When the light bulb lights up, negatively-charged particles called **electrons** are flowing through the wire and bulb. This flow is called **current**.

2. Now try to light the bulb with the smallest number of components.

Make a sketch of your simple circuit in this space:



3. Based on what you have seen, what must be true for a circuit to light a bulb? _____

<p>Activity A: Closing a circuit</p>	<p>Get the Gizmo ready:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click Clear. • Turn on Show current and select Electron flow. • Set up components as shown to the right. 	
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Introduction: You should have just built an **open circuit** (shown above). The gap on the left prevents the flow of charges. There are no gaps in a **closed circuit**, so charges can flow.

Question: What materials will close a circuit?

1. **Predict:** **Conductors** are materials with easily movable charges, allowing current to occur. **Insulators** do not have easily movable charges, so current is not produced. Look at the nine **Materials** at lower left. Which do you think are conductors? Which are insulators?

A. Predicted conductors: _____

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