Name: _____ Date: _____

Sock Sparks on a Dry Winter Day

Circle group

Walk on a rug in your socks. Then touch a doorknob. Zap! A tiny spark jumps to your finger. It is called static electricity.

Your socks rub on the rug. Some charge moves between the rug and you. Now you have extra charge.

The charge jumps to the metal knob. That is the spark you feel.

Winter air is dry. Dry air lets charge build up. Damp air lets charge slip away. The spark is small and safe.

Questions

1. What jumps to your finger?

_____

_____

2. What is the spark called?

_____

_____

3. What happens when your socks rub on the rug?

_____

_____

4. When do you get more shocks?

_____

_____

5. Why are there fewer shocks on a damp day?

_____

_____

Words to know

static: electric charge that stays in one place until it jumps
charge: a tiny bit of electricity held by very small parts
spark: a tiny flash made when charge jumps

damp: a little bit wet

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sock Sparks on a Dry Winter Day

Triangle group

Have you ever walked across a rug in your socks and then touched a doorknob? Zap! A tiny spark jumps to your finger. It is called static electricity.

Everything is made of very small parts. Some of these parts carry a charge. When your socks rub on the rug, some charge moves between the rug and you. Now your body holds extra charge.

The extra charge can jump to the metal knob. It leaps across the little gap between your finger and the knob. That jump is the spark you feel.

Static shocks happen more in winter, because the air is dry then. Damp air helps the charge slip away before it can build up. The spark is small and safe.

Questions

1. What jumps to your finger after you scuff across a rug in socks?

_____

_____

2. What is the spark called?

_____

_____

3. What happens when your socks rub on the rug?

_____

_____

4. When do static shocks happen more?

_____

_____

5. Why might you get fewer shocks on a rainy, damp day?

_____

_____

Words to know

static: electric charge that stays in one place until it jumps
charge: a tiny bit of electricity held by very small parts
spark: a tiny flash made when charge jumps
damp: a little bit wet

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sock Sparks on a Dry Winter Day

Square group

Have you ever shuffled across a carpet in your socks and then reached for a metal doorknob? Zap! A tiny spark leaps to your fingertip. Scientists call this static electricity.

Everything is made of extremely small parts, and some of those parts carry an electric charge. When your socks rub against the carpet, some of the charge moves between the carpet and your body, so you end up holding extra charge.

As your finger approaches the metal knob, the charge jumps across the small gap between them. That jump is the spark you feel.

Static shocks happen more often in winter because the air is dry. Damp air helps the charge slip away before it can build up. The spark is small and harmless.

Questions

1. What leaps to your fingertip after you shuffle across a carpet in socks?

_____

_____

2. What do scientists call the spark?

_____

_____

3. What happens to the charge when your socks rub against the carpet?

_____

_____

4. Why do static shocks happen more often in winter?

_____

_____

5. Why would you expect fewer shocks on a rainy, damp day?

_____

_____

Words to know

static: electric charge that stays in one place until it jumps
charge: a tiny bit of electricity held by very small parts
spark: a tiny flash made when charge jumps
damp: a little bit wet

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Sock Sparks on a Dry Winter Day

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Sock Sparks on a Dry Winter Day

Easier · 78 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.4

1. A tiny spark.
2. Static electricity.
3. Some charge moves between the rug and you.
4. In winter, when the air is dry.
5. Damp air lets the charge slip away.

Triangle: Sock Sparks on a Dry Winter Day

This passage · 121 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. A tiny spark.
2. Static electricity.
3. Some charge moves between the rug and you.
4. In winter, when the air is dry.
5. Damp air helps the charge slip away before it builds up.

Square: Sock Sparks on a Dry Winter Day

Harder · 124 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. A tiny spark.
2. Static electricity.
3. Some of it moves between the carpet and your body.
4. The air is dry in winter.
5. Damp air helps the charge slip away before it builds up.