

Name _____ Date _____

STATIC ELECTRICITY

Have you ever seen your hair sticking straight up in the air all by itself? Or how about the last time you dragged your foot across the floor and got a shock? This was probably static electricity. But how does static electricity work?

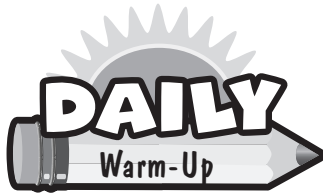
Everything is made up of atoms. Particles called electrons are part of every atom. These electrons have an electric charge. This charge is negative and is the cause of electricity.

Static electricity isn't really static at all. It involves electrons that move from one place to another. Static electricity is different because it doesn't flow from one place to another in a current like most electricity.

Electrons move from one object to another by vigorous rubbing or brushing. There is an electric field around each object. The field affects objects and produces unlike charges in them. The unlike charges are attracted to each other. Sometimes static electricity makes a popping sound.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which of the following statements is true but not found in the reading passage?
 - This charge is negative and is the cause of electricity.
 - Static electricity is more common in the dry, winter air.
 - Sometimes static electricity makes a popping sound.
 - Static electricity gets its name because it involves electrons that move from one place to another.
- Which of the following statements can you infer after reading the passage?
 - Static electricity does not last long, but ends quickly.
 - Static electricity is very dangerous.
 - Scientists still do not know how static electricity works.
 - Static electricity only happens to certain people.
- There is an electric _____ around each object.
 - charge
 - span
 - shortage
 - field
- The purpose of the third paragraph is to . . .
 - inform the reader about how static electricity begins.
 - inform the reader about how static electricity works.
 - inform the reader on how best to prevent static electricity.



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1. b
2. a
3. d
4. b