

Electrifying Minnesota

A traveling exhibit from the Minnesota History Center and The Bakken Museum.

Electrons! More Science to Talk About!

Some things to consider reviewing with your class:

1. *Basic structure of all matter (you, me, the ground, the air...everything):*

- All matter is made of tiny particles called atoms.
- Atoms are made of even smaller particles.
- Every atom has a nucleus and each nucleus is made up of particles called protons and neutrons.
- Around the nucleus are clouds of very interesting particles called electrons.
- Protons have a positive charge and neutrons have no charge.
- Electrons have a negative charge and can move from one atom to another more easily than protons and neutrons.
- The movement of these negatively charged electrons creates an electric current!

2. *Circuits.*

- In a circuit, electrons moving through a wire create an electric current.
- In an open circuit the path is incomplete so electric current can't flow.
- Most circuits have switches.
- Switches are useful because they allow us to stop and start the flow of electricity whenever we want by opening and closing circuits.
- And! Switches save us money by helping us conserve electricity!