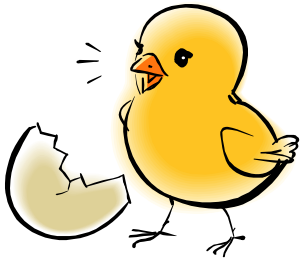
The Chirping Chick

Application: Electrical circuits



Electricity is a form of energy in the same sense that heat and light are forms of energy. An electrical current is a flow of charged particles. Electrons flow in a circuit. Charged particles pass easily through conductors. The human body contains water solutions of salts that act as conductors and pass charged particles easily.

Materials:

- Classroom of students or at least 5 volunteers
- Chirping Chick toy or other toy that works on concept of electrical circuit

Preparation:
Have class or volunteers stand in large circle.
Stand at one point in the circle with chick in hand, be careful to only hold one electrode.

Demonstration Procedure:

1. Explain to students the concept of electrical current and conductors of flow
2. Have students hold hands
3. Touch one electrode of chick with finger of left hand
4. Have student to the left of you touch other electrode of chick with finger of right hand.
5. Observe
6. Instruct one set of students to drop hands, breaking the circuit
7. Have them hold hands again. Repeat steps 6 and 7 for other places in the circuit
8. Ask students for an explanation

Outcomes: Students should observe that as long as the connection is made between hands, the bodies will complete the circuit. When the hands are dropped, the circuit is broken.

References: Fran Zackutansky, 2000