

Directions: Read both passages and  
answer the questions that follow.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### It's Not Electric

Have you ever thought about  
How different life would be,  
Without a little thing  
We call electricity?  
It would be a major bummer  
And a Saturday morning hurdle  
If I had no electricity  
To watch Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.  
Electricity is in your kitchen,  
It sure is a chef's pleaser  
It makes your blender go,  
And your fridge and your freezer.  
When I am doing my math homework  
It would be too much to handle  
If I had to figure out my long division  
By the light of only a candle.  
No computers, no iPads, no game systems,  
It really would be a fright  
To live in the darkness  
Without electricity and light.

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## Where Did Electricity Come From?

Do you know who invented electricity? Well, that is a trick question. Electricity was never invented, as it is a form of energy that is already in nature. You can't invent what is already there. Instead, you can discover it and harness its power. Let's find out how electricity got its start.

You might have heard the story of Ben Franklin getting the bright idea to attach a key to a kite and then go fly it during a lightning storm. Old Ben got sparks alright, but he didn't necessarily discover electricity. His experiment proved that lightning and electrical sparks were the same thing.

The electricity that you have in your home relies on electric current. The first person to produce a continuous electric current was an Italian man named Alessandro Volta in 1800. Using that information, and their invention of the light bulb, Thomas Edison used his direct current (DC) to light up New York street lamps in 1882.

While New York was the first city to light up at nighttime, there were discoveries of makeshift batteries found in civilizations as early as ancient Rome. Who knows - those batteries might have been lighting up Roman building sites centuries before New Yorkers were able to see their streets in the dark.

Electricity has always been around, but it took thousands of years worth of experimenting and discovering to get it into our homes today. But next time you sit down to watch television or work on your computer, you can remember that all that experimenting was worth it.

1. How does the speaker of the poem feel about electricity? Provide evidence from the poem to support your answer.

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2. What is the main idea about electricity that the speaker of the poem wants the reader to understand? Explain your reasoning with evidence from the poem.

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3. Determine the main idea of paragraph 3 of the passage, "Where Did Electricity Come From?" Provide evidence to support the main idea that you chose.

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4. What reasons does the author give in the passage, "Where Did Electricity Come From?" to support his or her point that electricity was not invented?

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5. Explain the connection between the discoveries of Ben Franklin, Alessandro Volta, and Thomas Edison.

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6. Describe two ways the two passages are similar and two ways that the two passages are different.

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7. Using evidence from both passages, explain how both the story and the poem support the point that electricity is significant.

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