

# A week without Electricity by: Aaliyah Powell

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What would a week without electricity be like? Horrible, am I right? Well, I have written this essay to show you the importance of electricity. You might think electricity is just poles and wires, but it's much more! We use it in our everyday lives! From blow-dryers to washing machines, electricity is needed. In fact, I don't think C.U.C. would exist without it! My dad wouldn't have a job! We wouldn't be able to do LOTS of things!

## *Fast Facts*

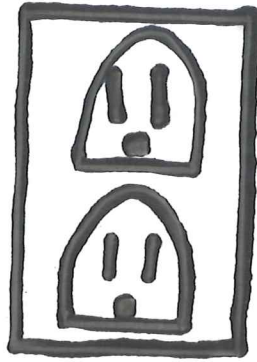
Electricity comes from a power plant

Electricity flows through a wire

Electricity is dangerous

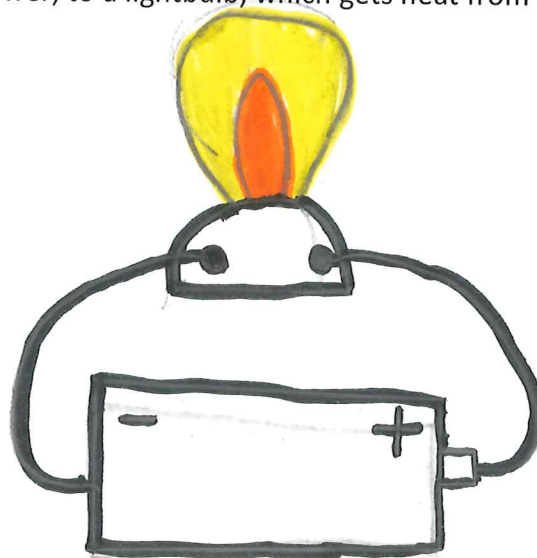
Imagine a week without electricity in Cayman. What would it be like? Well, for one thing, it would be dark in the night, because the lights need electricity to glow. It would be hot, because the A.C. needs electricity to work. We would feel bored, because it powers our television. You can't charge your iPad or iPod, because when the battery runs out it needs electricity to charge. You will have to wash your clothes the old-fashion way, because the washing machine won't work. Neither will the drying machine. You'll have to hang your clothes to dry. It can be embarrassing when people see your underwear hanging. Your parents wouldn't tell you not to touch an electrical socket, because it would not be dangerous without electricity.

This is what it looks like:



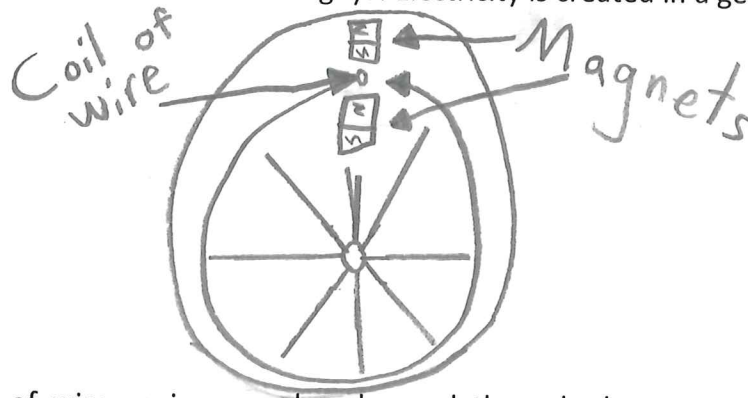
Of course, when the power comes back, stick to my motto for electrical sockets: "Touch it, you're dead!" Life would be awful without electricity, even though it can be dangerous. I'm glad it's only a week! We couldn't go to the bank, because the security wouldn't work! Our drinks would get hot, our popcycles would melt, our pizza would cool down, and we would have to heat our toast in the sun! Hey, that could also work for the pizza. You know, there was a ship that really *did* have a week without electricity! Yes, it's true! The people aboard it had to wear the same exact clothes because the washing machines weren't working! Their hot food cooled and their cold food got warm. It was terrible! One time, it was night-time at my house, I was peacefully sleeping with my little sister, Kayleigh, when suddenly, a flash of lightning woke me. Did you know that lightning is a flash of electricity, striking from the clouds? I was SO scared! The nightlight was out and the A.C. was off. It was dark and hot. I couldn't see anything. My only light source was the flashes of lightning. I couldn't hear anything. All I heard was the booming thunder. Then, after a LONG period of time, my dad finally came with the light from his iPhone. Phew! It was like a night without electricity. Good thing the power came back in the morning! Anyways, back to a week without electricity. No more fire drills would happen at school because the fire alarm uses electricity. If there was a *real* fire, we couldn't set off the alarm, so we would have to go from room to room screaming, "Fire! Fire! It's a REAL fire! Get out now!" I'm glad we have electricity not 1 week without electricity? That's terrible! 148 hours

hours of suffering without A.C., entertainment, light, fresh food, or stuff like that! At least we would be able to flush the toilet and wash our hands. We could take a bath, but we couldn't blow-dry our hair because blow-dryers need electricity to work. It, including many other things, has a plug that connects to an electrical socket to give it power. We couldn't use our ovens, microwaves or stoves to cook our food, because *they* use electricity, too! Do you realize how important electricity is? It powers many things around us. Have you noticed how terrible it would be to have a week *without* electricity? Hey, did you know that Thomas Edison invented one of the earliest examples of electricity: the lightbulb? Let me show you a circuit from a battery, which holds the power, to a lightbulb, which gets heat from the power to light up.



The power goes from the battery through wire 1 towards the lightbulb, giving it heat and making it glow, then flowing through wire 2 giving power back to the battery. The electricity goes to wire 1 again and the process goes on and on until the battery runs out. If there is a break in the circuit, the bulb won't light up.

Writing this essay, I have learned the importance of electricity and I realize that we really need to conserve it more. Ben Franklin discovered electricity and to prove it he did an experiment. He flew a kite when it was stormy. He flew it up into the clouds and got an electric charge. Others tried it and were shocked! Poor guys! Electricity is created in a generator, too!



When the coil of wire spins round and round through the two magnets, it disturbs the magnetic field, thereby creating electricity!

### History of C.U.C.

C.U.C. stands for "Caribbean Utilities Company LLD". That's long, so we just call it "C.U.C.". "C.U.C." brought electricity to Cayman in May 2006<sup>1986</sup>. Now that they're here, we can have A.C., so we can stay cool, Fridges, so our food and drinks will stay fresher much longer, lights, obviously so we can see, and so much more! If C.U.C. never came, we would have no electricity! Instead of a *week* without electricity, a *life* without electricity!