

Parallel Circuit

In this activity you will investigate what happens to current and voltage in a parallel circuit.

Safety Precautions

- Always have your teacher check your circuits before closing them.
- Clean up your work area and put away your equipment when you are finished the activity.

Materials

ammeter (or multimeter)
voltmeter (or multimeter)
switch
3 – 6 V bulbs
7 small wires with alligator connectors
6 V battery

What to Do

1. Set up the circuit as shown in Diagram 1.
Have your teacher check your connections before closing the switch.

2. Close the switch. Record the reading on the ammeter.

_____.

3. Set up the circuit as shown in Diagram 2.
Have your teacher check your connections before closing the switch.

4. Close the switch. Record the reading on the ammeter.

_____.

5. Remove the ammeter and set up Diagram 3.
Connect the voltmeter across each bulb in succession. Record your results in the table on the next page.

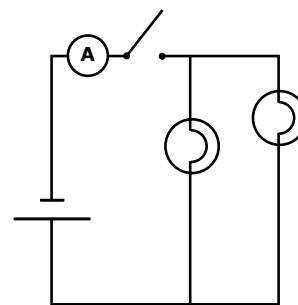


Diagram 1

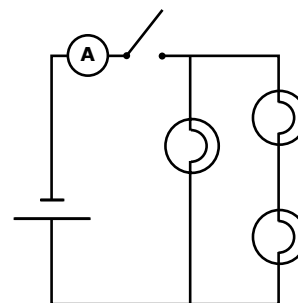


Diagram 2

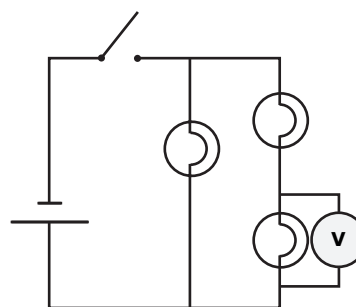


Diagram 3

What Did You Observe?

Data Table to Record Volts			
	Position 1 (V)	Position 2 (V)	Position 3 (V)
Voltage in step 5			

What Did You Discover?

6. What happens to the current in a circuit as more bulbs are connected in parallel with the first?

7. What happens to the voltage in a circuit as more bulbs are connected in parallel with the first?
