

The Shocking Story of Electricity

- 1 Look at the title. How has the author played with words in this title?
- 2 On page 11, what do the symbols on the girl's hair tell you?
- 3 On page 15, what does the author think about Franklin's experiment?
- 4 What can you see when electricity arcs between two points?
- 5 'Michael Faraday made a simple device that could transform electricity into motion' (page 22). Think of another word for 'motion' that you could use in this sentence.
- 6 Look at page 24. Do power plants create energy?
- 7 Which sentence on page 28 tells you what Edison said about AC (alternating current)?
- 8 Look at page 34. What are two advantages of nuclear fission?
- 9 What form of renewable energy did Maria Telkes work on?
- 10 In hydrogen fuel cells, what process produces electricity and heat?

Answers

- 1** 'Shocking' means both 'surprising', and getting an electric shock from touching electricity.
- 2** the hair has a positive charge
- 3** that it was dangerous
- 4** a bright flash of light
- 5** movement (other answers possible)
- 6** No, they change energy from one form into another.
- 7** 'Edison claimed AC current was dangerous and could kill people;' (exact quotation required)
- 8** it provides a lot of power; it provides cheap power.
- 9** solar energy
- 10** the process of turning hydrogen and oxygen into water