

Post-Field Trip Activity

Grades 4-6



The Smart Energy Hub

The following are suggested follow-up activities to help students reflect on their field trip experience.

After the Trip

Ask students their overall impressions of the field trip. **What did you enjoy? What didn't you enjoy? What surprised you? What do you want to learn more about? Which was your favorite station?**

Have them share their general observations and reactions.

You may want to have the class compose and send thank-you notes to the field trip site host and/or other persons that supported the field trip. Mention a favorite activity or information learned during the field trip.

Demonstrate Knowledge

Ask students to recall the purpose of the ComEd Chicago Training Center. ComEd workers go there to train and learn how to do their jobs safely. Discuss with students what they observed through the large training center window and how the equipment in the center helps the overhead electricians learn to be safe.

Students might share that overhead electricians learn:

- To climb utility poles
- How to fix equipment at the top of the utility poles and in the mock substations
- How to rescue other workers if they are in danger

Remind students that ComEd workers go through continuous training to keep themselves and members of the community safe, all while reliably delivering electricity to our homes, schools, and businesses. Communities rely on electricity every day, we should not take electricity for granted.

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Next, recall the game students played in the Energy Management at Home station. Students learned tips for managing and reducing their use of electricity by answering questions about common home appliances and devices. Using the information they learned, allow time for students to complete the Saving Electricity activity sheet. Students will read different scenarios and decide the best way to save electricity.

When students are done with the activity sheet, discuss the answers.

C – Gaming systems that are plugged into an outlet still use small amounts of electricity even when they are powered down. It is best to plug the gaming system into a power strip and turn the power strip off to make sure no electricity is being used.

A – Putting on a sweater or using a blanket doesn't use electricity. Turning up the heat or using an electric space heater requires the use of more electricity.

B - Turn the lights off. Dimming the lights does reduce the amount of electricity being used, but turning them off completely uses no electricity.

A – LEDs and CFLs use less energy to produce the same amount of light as a traditional incandescent light bulb. LEDs and CFLs also last years longer than an incandescent, which will save you money in the long run.

Encourage students to write an energy plan for their home or classroom. Allow small groups of students to brainstorm and draw ways they can use smart technologies and everyday common sense to reduce their use of electricity. Students should list the rooms in their house or the various rooms they visit in school during the school day (cafeteria, art room, gym, classroom). Then have them write one way to reduce energy for each room and explain how it reduces energy use.

Example:

Kitchen

Quickly open and shut the refrigerator door when getting a snack. Leaving the door open for too long lets the cool air escape and the refrigerator has to use electricity to cool the inside down to the right temperature.

Name _____

Date _____



Saving Electricity

There are several ways to save electricity in our homes, schools, and businesses. Think about some of the tips you learned about saving electricity on the field trip. Then complete each sentence with the best way to save electricity and money.

1. You are done playing with your gaming system. You should:
 - a. Leave the system on. Your sister wants to play a game in a few hours.
 - b. Press the off button on the gaming system.
 - c. Turn off the power strip that the gaming system is plugged into.

2. You are reading a book at home and feel a little cold. You should:
 - a. Put on a sweater or cover up with a blanket.
 - b. Turn up the thermostat to 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - c. Turn on an electric space heater.

3. It is time to go to school. You are the last person to leave the house and the kitchen lights are on. You should:
 - a. Leave the lights on, or you will be late for school.
 - b. Turn the kitchen lights off completely.
 - c. Turn the lights down by using the dimmer switch.

4. A light bulb burned out in the lamp in your room. Your parents should:
 - a. Replace the light bulb with an energy-efficient LED or CFL light bulb.
 - b. Replace the light bulb with a traditional incandescent light bulb.
 - c. Buy a new, smaller lamp.

Why is it important to conserve, or save, electricity?
