Electricity

Key Vocabulary

circuit	A path that an electrical current can flow around.
symbol	A visual picture that stands for something else.
cell/battery	A device that stores chemical energy until it is needed. A cell is a single unit. A battery is a collection of cells.
current	The flow of electrons, measured in amps.
amps	How electric current is measured.
voltage	The force that makes the electric current move through the wires. The greater the voltage, the more current will flow.
resistance	The difficulty that the electric current has when flowing around a circuit.
electrons	Very small particles that travel around an electrical circuit.

Key Knowledge

A series circuit is a circuit that has only one route for the current to take. If more bulbs or buzzers are added, the power has to be shared and so they will be dimmer or quieter.

If just one part of a series circuit breaks, the circuit is broken and the flow of current stops. For example disconnecting a wire or opening a switch.

Brighter and Louder:

More batteries or a higher voltage will make components brighter or louder. Shortening the wires means the electrons have less resistance to flow through.

Dimmer and Quieter:

Less batteries or a lower voltage will make components duller or quieter. Lengthening the wires means the electrons have to travel through more resistance.