All Charged Up

When was the last time you were really excited about something? Maybe you felt all charged up and ready to go. Perhaps you were going on a family vacation. Maybe you were getting ready for the end of school and the start of summer. Keeping all that energy inside of you must have been hard. You just couldn't wait.

Electricity is just like a very excited person. Electricity involves particles that are all charged up. These particles can't wait to start moving.

Electricity is a form of energy. This means that electricity can do work or make something move. For example, it can make a fan spin to cool a room.

Electricity is the movement of charged particles. The particles are called *electrons*. Electrons have a negative charge. Electrons are very tiny. You cannot see an electron, even with a very strong microscope.

Electrons are always moving. This means that electricity can move, too. For example, electricity can move through a wire. When you plug a fan into the wall, electrons start flowing through the wire. Once electricity is flowing through the wire, the fan starts turning.

Have you ever been shocked by touching something made of metal, such as a doorknob? That was electricity. Electricity can jump from one object to another. As you walk across a rug, electrons move from the rug to you. When you touch something metal, the electrons jump from you to the metal. You get zapped. That is electricity. Talk about being all charged up!