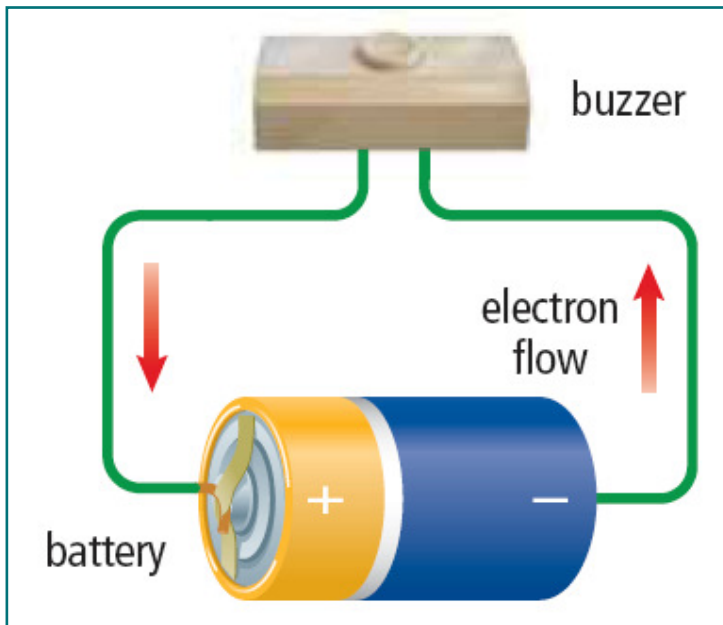


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Science 9 8.2 Electric Current

A complete pathway that allows electrons to **flow** is called an **electric circuit**. Electrons flow through devices (**loads**) in the circuit that **convert** electricity to other forms of energy.



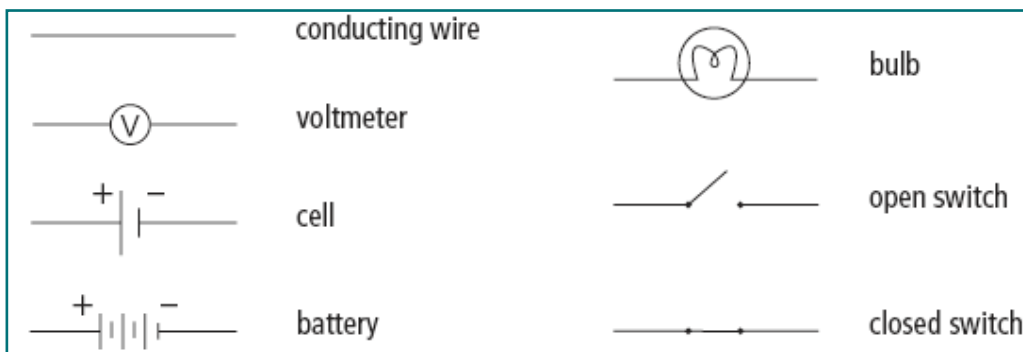
Basic Circuit Components

Source: source of energy (either a **dry cell** or a **battery**)

Conductor: wire where current flows (usually a **wire**)

Load: turns electricity into other forms (for example: **a bulb**)

Switch: turns circuit on or off (switch open = **off**, switch closed = **on**)



Current Flow

The continuous flow of charge in a complete circuit is called **current electricity**.

Electricity is defined as **the amount of charge passing a point in a conductor every second**.

Current is measured in **amperes (A)**, and can be detected with an **ammeter**.

Conventional Current

Scientists today know that the flow of electricity is from **negative to positive** (it follows the flow of **electrons**).

However, in the early days of electricity research, scientist mistakenly believed electricity flowed from **positive to negative**.

Descriptions of this flow from positive to negative still exists today, and is called **conventional current**.