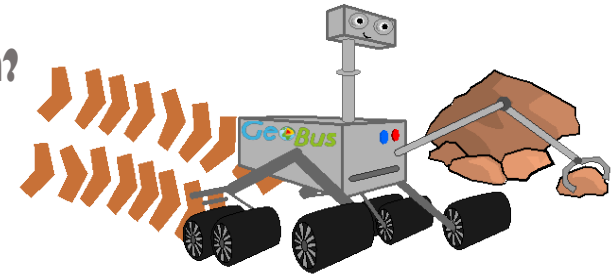
Science Fact or Fiction?

Potato Power

Instructions



Materials Needed:

Two Potatoes
Two short pieces of heavy copper wire
Two common galvanized nails
Three alligator clip/wire units

One light bulb unit
OR
One low-voltage LED clock (uses a 1-/2-volt button battery)

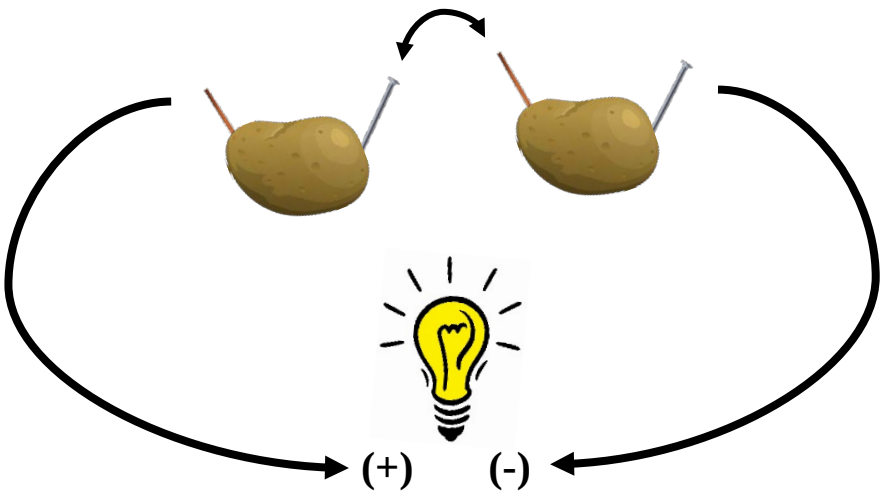
Instructions:

[If using a clock, first remove the battery from the clock, noting which is the positive (+) and negative (-) connection]

1. Take one of the potatoes and insert a nail in the end
2. Insert a piece of copper wire in to the other end (as far from the nail as possible)
3. Repeat steps 2 & 3 for the other potato
4. Use one alligator clip to connect the copper wire in the first potato to one terminal on the bulb unit / (+) terminal in the clock's battery compartment
5. Use another alligator clip to connect the nail in the other potato to the other bulb connection / (-) terminal in the clock's battery compartment
6. Use the third alligator clip to connect the nail in the first potato to the copper wire in the second potato
7. You should now see the bulb light up (or be able to set the clock and watch as it is powered by the potato batteries)

Tip:

Make sure the wires are connected in the correct order or the circuit won't be complete and nothing will happen!



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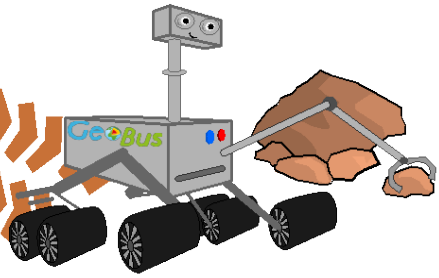

Potatoes hold a lot of energy – not only in the form of calories we can get by eating them but also as a battery to power more than just our bodies …

Draw and label your experiment

Describe your observations - was it expected or not?

Describe how the potato works as a battery?