

Light up the room with your hair!

Brief summary:

In this experiment you will find out how to light up the room by rubbing a balloon on their hair and using the static energy to light up a light bulb.

You will need:

- Help from an adult
- Dark room
- Fluorescent light bulb (energy saving bulb or tube)
- Balloon
- Full head of hair!

What to do:

Step 1. Blow up a balloon and tie off the end.

Step 2. Rub the balloon vigorously against the hair on your head.

Step 3. Go into a dark room.

Step 4. With help from an adult, touch the balloon against the two metal electrode prongs on the bottom of the fluorescent light bulb.

Step 5. Watch what happens when the static electricity discharges from the surface of the balloon into the fluorescent light bulb.

Step 6. Repeat rubbing the balloon to add more static electricity to the surface of the balloon. If careful, the balloon can be held against the light bulb as it is rubbed against hair. As the balloon surface builds up enough static electricity it will discharge into the light bulb frequently, resulting in light.

Take it further:

Have a look at our other static electricity experiments in the *Science at Home Digital Toolbox!*

Big questions:

- Why is the way we make electricity important to our environment?
- How can we save energy at home and at school?

