Rock-it Science Observations For Winter Lessons 2010

Capacitors

Capacitors have hidden talents and it appears that they may end up replacing batteries in the future.

Bigger capacitors make brighter sparks

More voltage makes brighter sparks

Smaller capacitors lit up small lights for less time than larger capacitors

Sometimes the screwdriver gets welded to the screw on the capacitor

Touching the screwdriver across the terminals doesn't always produce a spark

Sometimes the sparks shoot out arms like fireworks

Most sparks were white or orange

Sparks from copper are sometimes green or blue

Larger capacitors take longer to charge

The batteries didn't work as well when we were done

The sparks can burn a little but they don't shock