

Activity Hot Fingers - How Does Current Travel in a Battery?

CAUTION!

Note that a “short circuit” like this, with a fresh battery, can get very hot very quickly.

USE CAUTION!

Objective: To figure out the direction in which electrons flow in a battery.

Hypothesis: Which direction do you think electrons flow?
From the positive to the negative end or from the negative to the positive end?
Explain.

Materials:

- AAA or AA batteries,
- aluminum foil strips (long enough to reach from one end of the battery to the other end).

Procedure:

1. With a AA or AAA battery and a strip of aluminum foil, predict what part of the battery provides the electrons.

Prediction: _____

2. Take one end of the aluminum foil and place it on the negative end of the battery.
3. Touch the free end of the foil to different parts of the battery.
4. Determine which connections allow for the flow of electrons.

Conclusion:

Was your hypothesis correct? Explain.
