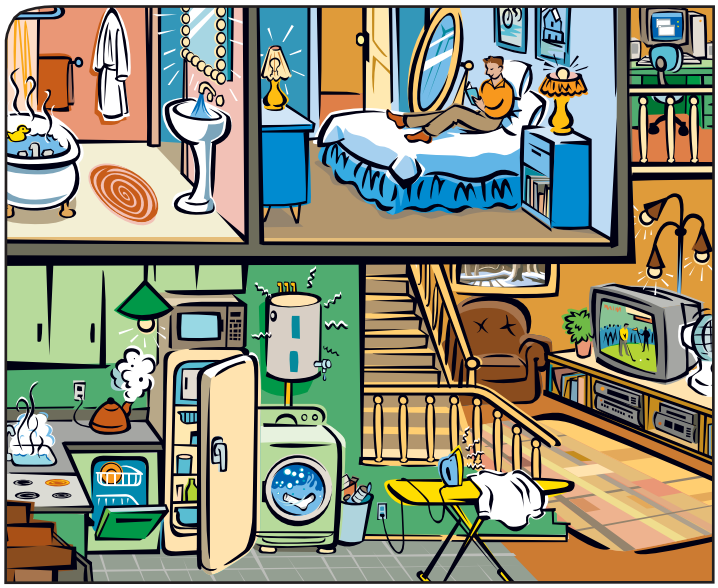
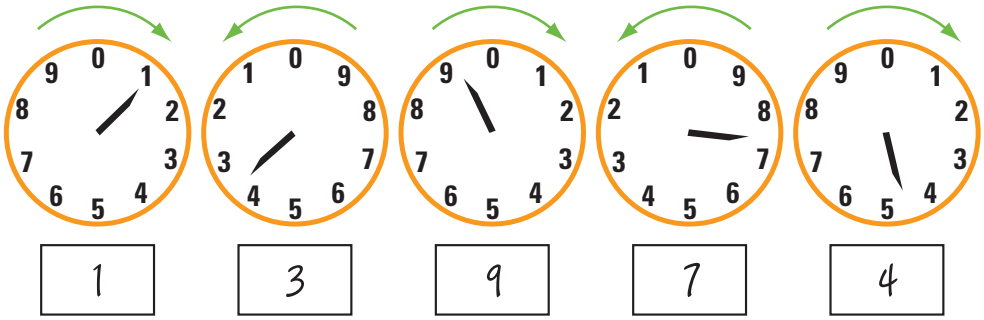
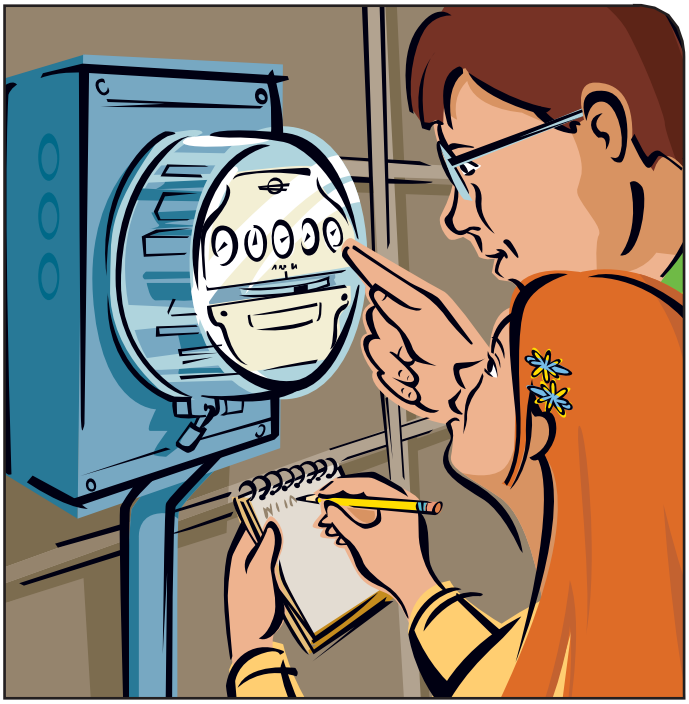
METER READER

Please note: This activity is designed to further illustrate energy usage in the home and does not require that students take actual readings on their home meters.

Electric meters measure the amount of energy used in a home, apartment building, school, or business. Electric meters measure energy in kilowatt hours. Kilowatts are a measure of how fast electricity is used (think of how fast water comes out of a garden hose). Kilowatt hours are the amount of electricity used over time (think of how much water is used to fill a tub). The illustration below shows how a meter would look when 13,974 kilowatt hours have been used.







How to Read a Meter

1. The first dial hand turns ***clockwise***.
2. The second dial hand turns ***counterclockwise***.
3. The third dial hand turns ***clockwise***.
4. The fourth dial hand turns ***counterclockwise***.
5. The fifth dial hand turns ***clockwise***.

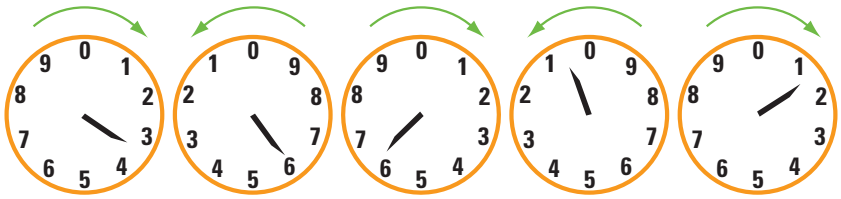
You should always read the number that the arrow has just passed, not the number it's moving toward.

METER READER

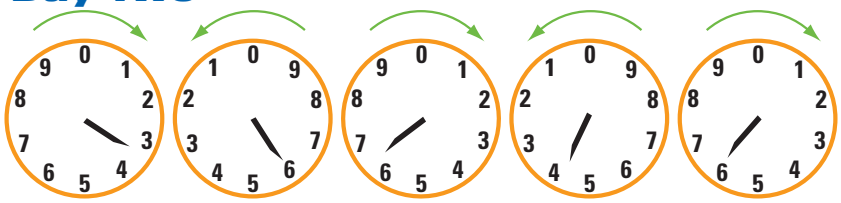
The dial shown below represents the readings for one family's meter over the course of two days.

1. Read the numbers on each dial for day one, and write them in the boxes beneath each dial. Remember which direction the dial is turning!
2. Read the numbers on each dial for day two, and write them in the boxes beneath each dial. Remember which direction the dial is turning!
3. Subtract the reading for day one from the reading for day two. Multiply the difference by the cost of one kilowatt hour (12 cents).
4. How much did the owners of this house spend on electricity in one day?

Day One



Day Two



			,			Day Two
−			,			Day One
=			,			
x		$		.		Kilowatt Hour
=	$			.		Cost of Electricity for One Day