

WHO LEFT THE LIGHTS ON?

Adapted from Earth Care

Overview: Students will be challenged to turn out lights in rooms when no one is in them.

Objectives: Students will...

- Identify familiar technological items and describe their use in daily life.
- Work with others in using technology.
- Share responsibility for planning classroom events and activities.

Time: 15 – 30 minutes

Suggested Grade Level: K – 2

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

By remembering to turn lights off when people aren't in a room, you can save energy. It takes 714 pounds of coal just to run one 100-watt light bulb around the clock for one year. Turning off lights in a room no one is in is the easiest thing to do.

PROCEDURE

1. Ask students why we keep the lights on when we leave the room.
2. Make the class aware of where the light switches are in the room.
3. Ask what would happen if as a class the lights were turned off as people leave.
4. A new job in the class can be created - "light monitor." The light monitor's job is to turn lights off and on as people come and go in the room.
5. Discuss who else in the school forgets to turn off lights and how the class can help them to remember to turn them off, too. For example, the class could post reminder stickers on light switches or pass out reminder slips to those who forget to turn the lights out.
6. Implement as many of the students' ideas as possible and discuss which ideas were the most successful at helping people to remember to turn off the lights. To make this a long-term project, create a way for the class to keep track of days, times, and locations that the lights are left on and look for patterns. Graph your data (by week or by month) and post in the hallway.

EXTENSION

Check out where light switches are in your house. Look around the house and decide which lights are important to keep on and which ones should be turned off at night and when no one is in that room. Parents should show students where light switches are in various rooms of the house.