**Vocabulary:** **Household Energy Usage**



**Vocabulary**

* Current – the flow of electrical charge.
	+ In a metal wire, current is the flow of negatively charged particles (electrons).
	+ Current is measured in *amperes* (A).
	+ In equations, the symbol for current is *I*.
* Energy consumption – the amount of energy that is used.
	+ The unit of energy consumption used in this Gizmo™ is the *kilowatt-hour*, or kWh. A 60-watt light bulb consumes 0.06 kilowatt-hours of energy in one hour.
	+ To calculate energy consumption, multiply *wattage* by *usage*.
* Fluorescent lamp – a light source that consists of a glass tube coated with phosphor and filled with argon and another inert gas.
	+ When an electric current flows through a fluorescent lamp, the gases emit ultraviolet radiation. This radiation excites the phosphors, which then emit light.
* Halogen lamp – a type of incandescent lamp in which the tungsten filament is encased in a capsule containing a mixture of gases that allow it to operate at a high temperature.
* Incandescent lamp – a standard light bulb.
	+ An electrical current passes through a thin tungsten filament, causing it to glow and give off light.
	+ The tungsten filament produces a lot of heat as well as light. Because of this, incandescent lamps are less efficient than fluorescent lamps.
* Lumen – a measure of the light produced by a lamp.
	+ A lumen is equal to the amount of light produced by a single candle.
	+ A standard 60-watt incandescent bulb produces about 800 lumens of light.
* Usage – the amount of time an electrical device is used.
* Voltage – a measure of electrical potential energy.
	+ Just as pressure causes water to flow through a pipe, voltage can be thought of as “electrical pressure” that causes electrical charge to flow through a circuit.
	+ Voltage is measured in *volts* (V).
	+ In equations, the symbol for voltage is *V*.
* Wattage – the electrical power consumed by a device.
	+ Units of wattage include the watt (W) and kilowatt (kW). A kilowatt is 1,000 watts.