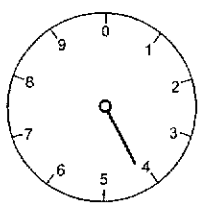


## STUDENT PAGE

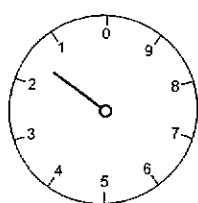
### PRACTICE READING YOUR ELECTRIC METER BEFORE-YOU-WATCH KILOWATT OURS ACTIVITY 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

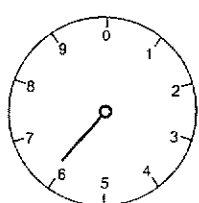
An electric meter consists of five round dials which are numbered 0 to 9. Read the dials from left to right. If the dial points directly to a number, record that number. If it lies between two numbers, always record the smaller number. If the pointer is between 9 and 0, record 9, because 0 represents 10. If the pointer is between 0 and 1, record 0, because 0 represents 0. For example, the reading from the dials below is: **41609**.



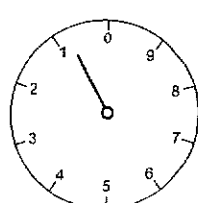
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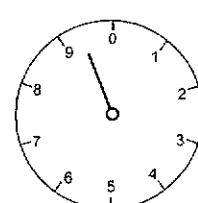
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6



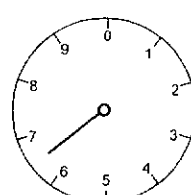
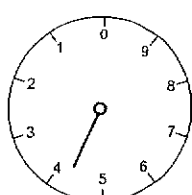
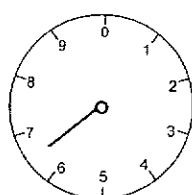
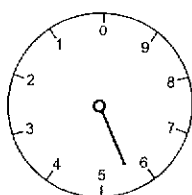
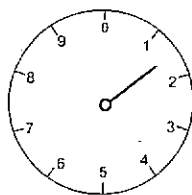
0



9

Try these dials for practice:

Day 1



\_\_\_\_\_

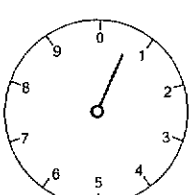
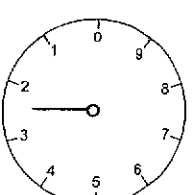
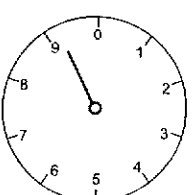
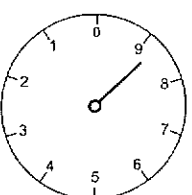
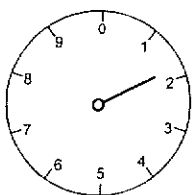
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Day 2



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To calculate how much energy your family is using each day, use the following equation:

**Day 2 reading – Day 1 reading = total kilowatt-hours used for Day 1**

How many kilowatt-hours were used on Day 1 above? \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT PAGE  
YOUR ELECTRIC METER  
BEFORE-YOU-WATCH KILOWATT OURS  
ACTIVITY 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

You will learn to measure how much electricity you use at home by learning to read your electric meter. Every house or apartment has its own meter that measures how much electricity that house or apartment uses. Your local utility company, which supplies electricity to your home, uses that meter to figure out how much you need to pay for your electricity. Each month an employee from your local utility reads the meter and records the number of kilowatt-hours used. Then the utility company uses that number to calculate how much your family owes and sends you a bill to pay, assessing you for your electricity usage.

Most electric meters have dials, while some newer ones do not have dials but are digital. Here is what you need to do:

1. Ask your parents or an adult at home to help you find the meter for your household and determine if it has dials or not. It is usually on the outside of the house, on the side or back of the house. If you live in an apartment, the meters may be together in a separate area.
2. Whether your meter is digital or has dials, you will read your meter at the same time every day for 7 days to find out how much electricity your household is using. Record the numbers in the meter-reading log.
3. Using the readings you recorded, now you can calculate the cost of the electricity:

**Day 2 reading – Day 1 reading = total kilowatt-hours used for Day 1**

Find the cost of one kilowatt-hour (kWh) for your area on your electric bill. You can calculate how much your electricity costs for Day 1 with this equation:

**Total kWh for Day 1 × cost for one kWh = cost of electricity for Day 1**

4. And finally, you can figure out approximately how much electricity your family is using in one month and how much it costs for one month:

**kWh used in one week × 4 weeks = total kWh used in one month**

**Total kWh used in one month × cost for one kWh =  
total cost for one month**

5. Ask your parents or an adult at home for last month's electric bill. Find out how many kilowatt-hours your family used in one month and how much it cost. See if your calculations match the numbers on the electric bill. Bring the bill to class.

**STUDENT PAGE**  
**ELECTRIC METER READING LOG**  
 BEFORE OR AFTER WATCHING *KILOWATT OURS*  
 ACTIVITY 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember to read your meter at the same time every day!**

Day	Date	Day of the week	Time	kWh reading	kWh used	Cost
Day 1					None	None
Day 2						
Day 3						
Day 4						
Day 5						
Day 6						
Day 7						
Day 8						
Total for 7 days	None	None	None	None		

**Now compare your calculations with your actual electric bill from home!**

**From your calculations:**

Total kWh for one month = \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost for one month = \_\_\_\_\_

**From your electric bill:**

Total kWh for one month = \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost for one month = \_\_\_\_\_