

Powerline Technician Teacher Tips

As the saying goes, sometimes "you don't know what you've got until it's gone." That is certainly true when weather conditions wreak havoc on everyday conveniences like electricity. Entire communities can be left in the dark for days or weeks. It takes the skills of highly trained electricians called powerline technicians (or lineworkers) to get the lights back on.



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DISCUSS

Recent news about hurricanes and other destructive types of weather. Talk about the types of first responders needed to keep people and property safe in emergency conditions.

READ

Students can read the text about powerline technicians out loud together (as a class or in teams) or on their own.

CHALLENGE #1: If You Had This Career...

Several questions prompt students to dig into essential information in a first person way that facilitates personal connections. Students can find answers to these questions by:

- Using Google (or another approved Internet search engine) to make specific queries like "powerline technician" or "lineworker."
- Visiting career information websites like www.getmyfuture.org or www.mynextmove.org. Both of these websites are sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor.
- If available, tapping into your school's career development software platform (such as Career Cruising) or your state's career and college information system (such as www.CFNC.org).

CHALLENGE #2: Think Tank

Ask students to list all the ways they depend on electrical power. Describe a scenario where a hurricane or severe thunderstorm knocks out power to the neighborhood. Explain that people will have to improvise until lineworkers are able to restore electrical power. What kinds of tools and supplies would they need to sustain life and maintain a minimum level of comfort? Instruct them to use the back side of the Career Ideas Challenge worksheet to sketch out and describe the contents of an emergency power kit. For extra effectiveness, you may want to share the actual contents of your own emergency preparation kit.

EXTEND THE DISCUSSION

Use this career option as a way to open up discussion about how electricity works. For a terrific summary see, <https://science.howstuffworks.com/electricity.htm>.

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