Where Can You Find Electric Charge?

Put an X next to all the things where you can find electric charge.

a. in a tree n. in a lightbulb that is not plugged in b. in a fish o. in a lightbulb that is plugged c. in rocks in but turned off d. in the human brain p. in a lightbulb that is plugged in and turned on e. in muscles f. in an atom q. in a battery that is not connected to anything g. in a cloud r. a battery in an electric car h. in the Sun when the car is turned off i. in sunlight s. a battery in an electric car when the car is turned on j. in a magnet k. in a nail t. a piece of wire that is not connected to anything l. in rubber u. a wire that is connected to a m. in a balloon battery and a bulb

Explain your thinking. What rule or reasoning did you use to decide if electric charge is present in an object or material?



Where Does the Charge Come From?



Five friends were trying out the new slide on the playground. The new slide is made out of plastic. They noticed that each time they reached the bottom of the slide, they got a small electric shock when they touched the ground. They wondered where the electric charge came from. This is what they said:

Kevin: I think the charge can only come from the plastic slide.

Tanisha: Today I was wearing wool pants. I think the charge can only come from

the pants.

Jin-Sang: I think the charge could come from either the slide or the pants.

Kerry: My pants rubbed against the plastic slide as I slid down. I think the rub-

bing creates the charge.

Marsha: Maybe the rubbing creates heat. The heat is what creates the electric

charge.

With whom do you agree the most? _____ Explain your reasoning.