Practicing Safe Science

As Doktor Kaboom says, “Science can hurt you, especially if I’m the one doing the science.” In working with electricity, he has to watch out for sparks, burns, and fires. Even an expert experimenter can face unexpected dangers, so Doktor Kaboom suits up even if there’s only the tiniest chance that it’ll be necessary—and you should, too. And remember, you should only experiment with electricity with the help of a responsible adult.

Let’s look at the gear that Doktor Kaboom wears to protect his body.

- **Lab coat** with long sleeves covers his clothing and skin.
- **Goggles** protect his eyes.
- **Gloves**—you guessed it—protect his hands.

Do Try This at Home

After the performance, try these activities with your friends and family.

**Bonzo Balloons**

Use balloons to explore static electricity. You’ll need: a dry winter’s day, two balloons, two long pieces of string, and a piece of fur or wool clothing. Blow up and tie closed one balloon. Press it against the wall. Does it stick? Now quickly rub the balloon back and forth against the fur or wool. Try the wall again. What happens, and why? Next, blow up and tie closed a second balloon. Tie a piece of long string to each balloon. Rub both as before. Holding each by the string, try bringing them together. What happens? Why?

**Heads Up for Electricity**

Make a list of all the electricity you use in one day of your life. Include things around your home like lights (and don’t forget things that run on batteries!). Also include things outside your house like traffic lights. What would life be like if electricity hadn’t been discovered?

And remember...

being a good audience member isn’t rocket science—just stay seated and quiet, don’t eat, and remember to watch, listen, and clap.

Explore More!

Go to KC Connections on ARTSEDGE
artsedge.kennedy-center.org/kc-connections
Michael Faraday
You can thank this man and his endless curiosity if you enjoy riding in cars. He discovered how to generate electricity using magnetic effects and this became the first generator. From there, his experiments led to electric motors and many other devices we use every day.

What’s His Name? Doktor Kaboom!
But his real name is David Epley, and he’s a comedian who loves science. When he performs, he plays the role of a scientist from Germany. To show that you agree with Doktor Kaboom, remember to say “ja” (“yah”), which is German for “yes.” David performs “improvisational comedy,” which means he “improvises” (changes) his jokes depending on what’s happening on stage.

Get to Know a Scientist... or Two

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