

LIGHTS OUT!

Ember's generator was designed to last 200 years. Now, 241 years later, the generator is malfunctioning and blackouts come more and more frequently. Look into a real blackout that took place in the United States in 2003 to get a better idea of what happens when the lights go out.

Fifty million people across the United States and Canada suffered through the "Great Blackout" on August 14, 2003. In this activity, you will follow news reports of the event and imagine yourself playing a role in the drama of the Great Blackout.

MATERIALS

- ✿ INTERNET ACCESS
 - ✿ PHOTOCOPIES OF NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES ABOUT THE AUGUST 2003 NORTHEASTERN BLACKOUT
 - ✿ PAPER AND PENCILS
 - ✿ DRAWING MATERIALS
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PROCEDURES

1. Gather information about the blackout that occurred on August 14, 2003, in the northeastern United States and Canada.
2. See this useful *New York Times* article for ideas about blogging: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/08/19/technology/circuits/19blog.html?th>
3. Read articles about the 2003 blackout.
4. Choose an actual person from among the articles found here. Look at the gallery of photographs, too. Use the sheet on the next page to record details about this person and get to know him or her better.
5. Tell your blackout survivor's story as if it were your own. (Use at least three details from the news articles.)

For an optional all-group activity, combine your accounts and weave together a story of the blackout to present in the form of:

- e a play
- e a radio broadcast
- e a graphic novel
- e a television broadcast, or
- e a screenplay

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PREPARE AND WRITE YOUR OWN BLACKOUT BLOG



Name: Date:

Use this form to help you as you do your research into the Blackout of 2003.

Name and occupation of your blackout survivor.

Where this person was and what he or she was doing when the blackout occurred.

Three details you found from articles that you will use in your blog.

Timeline of events from the moment the power went out until it was restored.

Lights go out

August 14, 2003

Other concerns your character would have.

Now get blogging! Use the details listed above to help you craft your blackout survivor's blog!