

The Big Switch Off

Last month Birmingham schoolgirl Becky Carter and her family took part in The Big Switch Off, an experiment to live without electricity for a month. Becky talked to us about the experiment.

Q: Was it difficult to live without electricity?

A: No, not really - it was fun! Sometimes we all played cards. My sister and I gave little concerts - we played guitars. Often we just sat with candles and read or talked. We also went to the cinema a lot! But it was a bit hard without the internet at home. At the beginning I used my phone but then the battery died and I couldn't use my charger!

Q: What were the best things?

A: It was cool to eat together at the table every day. Before The Big Switch Off we always had dinner in front of the TV.

Q: What were the lessons you learned from the experiment?

A: First, it's great we have a gas cooker! Most important, I learned that electricity is awesome! Man lived for hundreds of thousands of years without electricity - we're lucky to have it.

1. Read the text and mark the sentences as TRUE (T), FALSE (F) or DOESN'T SAY (?).

1. Only people from Birmingham took part in The Big Switch Off. ____
2. Becky plays a musical instrument. ____
3. It was quite difficult for Becky to live without the internet. ____
4. The Carters often ate at the table before the experiment. ____
5. The Carters couldn't cook during The Big Switch Off. ____

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2. Read the text and answer the questions in full sentences.

1. What did Becky's family have to try to do in *the Big Switch Off*?

2. Where did Becky's family go very often during the experiment?

3. What did Becky think about the experiment?

4. Why couldn't Becky use her phone?

5. How did her family cook during the experiment?

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