Electron Jumper Activity: Electron Transport in Photosynthesis

AP Biology/College Level Teacher Guide

Overview

This guide supports implementation of the Electron Jumper Activity: Electron Transport in Photosynthesis using the 5E instructional model.

Learning Objectives

- Students will trace the path of electrons through the light-dependent reactions
- Students will identify energy transformations during photosynthesis
- Students will evaluate the game as a model of photosynthesis

Standards Alignment

- **ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE 3.1.A.1:** Photosynthesis captures free energy from the environment.
- **ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE 3.1.B.1:** The light-dependent reactions of photosynthesis capture light energy.
- **ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE 3.1.B.2:** Photosystems embedded in the thylakoid membrane absorb light energy.

Topic 3.5: Photosynthesis

- **LO 3.5.A:** Describe the photosynthetic processes that allow organisms to capture and store energy
- **EK 3.5.A.1:** Light-dependent reactions capture energy from sunlight
- Photosystems II and I

- Electron transport chain
- Chemiosmosis for ATP synthesis

Prerequisites

- Understanding of redox reactions
- Chloroplast structure

Time Estimate

25 minutes

Materials Needed

- Computer with internet access
- Student Activity Sheet

Teaching Tips by Phase

Phase 1: ENGAGE (5-10 minutes)

- Start with the phenomenon or problem presented
- Elicit student predictions and prior knowledge
- Create cognitive dissonance if possible
- Build excitement for investigation

Phase 2: EXPLORE (15-20 minutes)

- Allow students to investigate with minimal guidance
- Circulate and ask probing questions
- Encourage systematic data collection
- Note common discoveries and difficulties

Phase 3: EXPLAIN (10-15 minutes)

- Have students share their findings first
- Build on their observations to introduce concepts
- Address misconceptions directly

- Connect to broader biological principles

Phase 4: ELABORATE (10 minutes)

- Apply knowledge to new scenarios
- Make real-world connections
- Encourage deeper investigation
- Support transfer of learning

Phase 5: EVALUATE (5-10 minutes)

- Use varied assessment strategies
- Focus on conceptual understanding
- Provide immediate feedback
- Plan follow-up based on results

> **Remember:**
>
> The goal is student discovery through guided inquiry. Resist the urge to explain concepts before students have explored them!
