

Section	Group	Name	Signature
Grade			
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After this activity you should know: • Solve circuits in which not all the resistors are in series or parallel

1. Four resistors are connected to the 20 Volt EMF. The resistances are  $R_1 = 5\Omega$ ,  $R_2 = 10\Omega$ ,  $R_3 = 4\Omega$  and  $R_4 = 2\Omega$ .

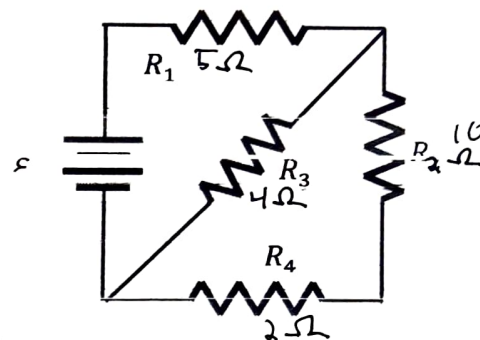
a. Determine the equivalent resistance of the circuit. Redraw the resistances at each step.

Series:  $R_1$   $R_{234}$

Parallel:  $R_2$   $R_{34} =$

$$R_{234} = \left( \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{10} \right)^{-1} = 3 \frac{2}{5} \Omega$$

$$R_{1234} = 5 + 3 \frac{2}{5} + 2 = 8 \Omega$$



b. Determine the current and voltage drops across each resistor. Fill in the table below.

$$E_{\text{EMF}} \quad I = \frac{V}{R}$$

	$R_1$	$R_2$	$R_3$	$R_4$	$R_{234}$		
$R$	$5\Omega$	$10\Omega$	$4\Omega$	$2\Omega$	$10 \frac{2}{5} \Omega$		
$I$	$2.5 \text{ A}$	$0.63 \text{ A}$	$1.87 \text{ A}$	$0.63 \text{ A}$	$2.5 \text{ A}$		
$\Delta V_R$	$-12.5 \text{ V}$	$-6.25$	$-7.5$	$-1.25$	$-7.5$		

- c. The battery in the circuit has total useful chemical potential energy of 20,000 Joules. How long will the battery last in this circuit?

$$P = 20V \cdot 2.5A = 50W$$

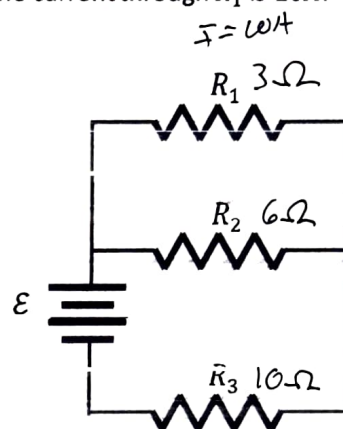
$$20000 = P \Delta t$$

$$\Delta t = 400s$$

2. Three resistors are connected to an EMF with  $R_1 = 3\Omega$ ,  $R_2 = 6\Omega$  and  $R_3 = 10\Omega$ . The current through  $R_1$  is 10A.

- a. Determine the equivalent resistance of the circuit.

$$10 + \left( \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6} \right)^{-1} = 12\Omega$$



- b. Determine the EMF and the current through  $R_3$ . Show work. You may (but do not have) to set up a table to help organize your calculation.

$$V_1 = V_2 = I_1 R_1 = 30V$$

$$I_2 = \frac{30V}{6} = 5A$$

$$I_3 = 15A = I_1 + I_2$$

$$V_3 = 150V$$

$$V_{123} = 180V$$

3. Three resistors with  $R_1 > R_2 > R_3$  are connected to an EMF.

- a. The three resistors are connected in series to the EMF. Which resistor dissipates the most power? Explain your answer. *Hint: rewrite the power dissipation in terms of  $R$  and think about what is the same for series resistors.*

$$P_{diss} = I \Delta V = I^2 R$$

$R_1$  dissipates the most since  $P = RI^2$  and  $I$  is the same for all of them.

- b. The three resistors are connected in parallel to the EMF. Which resistor dissipates the most power? Explain your answer.

$$R_3 \text{ since } P = RI^2$$

and current will flow linearly proportionately to the other  $R$ ,  $I^2$  is going to be bigger