Vocabulary Words and Their Meanings

(Classroom teacher will select the words and definitions suitable for the students.)

Base = glass or porcelain bottom of the insulator generally what the insulator would rest on if placed on a flat surface.

Color = glass insulators were made in many shades of blue, green, amber, purple…the most common color being aqua. Porcelain insulators were made in shades of brown, white, and blue…brown being the most common. There were also other colors, just not seen as frequently.

Communications = the means to transmit messages between persons or places.

Dome = the top part of the insulator.

Drip Points = small projections on the base of the insulator, believed to help water "drip off" of the insulator. **Round Drip Points (RDP)** is used to describe the type of base the insulator has. They are hemispherical beads about the size of a BB on the base. **Sharp Drip Points (SDP)** is used to describe the type of base the insulator has. They are conical hemispherical projections about 1/8" in diameter on the base.

Electricity = electric power as a power source.

Embossing = a marking technique used on all insulators where the mold is punched or engraved, resulting in raised letters or other markings on the insulator.

Glass Insulators = insulators made from hot molten glass and usually identified by a **CD#** (Consolidated Design #).

Line Wire = the main wire the insulator is designed to support.

Porcelain Insulators = insulators made from a type of ceramic or porcelain material, often called "mud" and identified by a **U-#**.

Petticoat or Inner Skirt = Used to describe all skirts of an insulator, as in **Double Petticoat.**

Skirt = same as “petticoat”.

Style = word used to describe the shape or type of insulator.

Smooth Base = an insulator without drip points.

Threaded Insulator = an insulator whose pinhole is threaded to fit a corresponding threaded pin.

Threadless Insulator = an insulator whose pinhole has no threads.

Tie Wire = the wire used to securely attach the **line wire** to the insulator.

Wire Groove = groove on the side of the insulator used to secure the conductor by wrapping a short length of wire around the insulator and the **line wire**.

Wooden Insulator = made from wood and used mainly on the trolley lines in San Francisco, CA.

Insulator Parts