



Alternative Energy

READING LESSON

Featured Book

Alternative Energy, by Christine Petersen

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Objective

The students will read about the various forms of energy derived from renewable resources, such as wind power, solar power, water power, geothermal energy, and biofuels.

Science Background

Energy that comes from "renewable" resources such as water, wind and the sun, is called "Renewable Energy". Unlike coal and oil, these resources will never run out and can be used over and over.

Reading Standards (see appendix A for detailed overview)

Standard 1 - Students read and understand a variety of materials.

Standard 6 - Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.

Key Points

- Energy is any source of power that can be used to do work.
- Most of the energy used in the United States comes from fossil fuels such as oil, coal or natural gas.
- Earth has limited amounts of fossil fuels, which pollute our soil, air, and water when burned.
- Alternative energy sources can be found in water, wind, sunlight, heat from the earth and even trash.



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READING LESSON - Question Review

Answer the questions below to help you review what was read in Alternative Energy, by Christine Petersen.

1. Your body gets energy when it burns the food you eat. What does a vehicle burn to give it energy to operate?
 - a) Food
 - b) Gasoline
 - c) Oil
2. Fossil fuels such as oil, coal, and natural gas were formed millions of years ago. What were they formed from?
 - a) Garbage
 - b) Decaying plants and animals
 - c) Volcanoes
3. Put a check next to all of the reasons why we should use alternative methods of energy.
 - Our fossil fuel supply is very limited.
 - Fossil fuels release harmful gases that pollute our soil, air and water when burned.
 - Alternative energy such as water, wind and solar power are better for the environment.
4. About 20 percent of all electricity in the world is made using the energy of flowing rivers. What is this called?
 - a) Biofuel
 - b) Hydropower
 - c) Geothermal



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READING LESSON - Question Review (continued)

5. The energy from the wind can also be used to create electricity. What is the name of the device that converts the winds energy to electricity?
 - a) Tower
 - b) Wind sock
 - c) Wind turbine

6. Solar cells are made from a kind of melted sand called silicon. What do solar cells do?
 - a) Convert the Sun's energy into electricity
 - b) Heats water using a black box
 - c) Prevents heat from escaping through walls

7. What is the energy, which is produced from the heat inside the Earth called?
 - a) Renewable Energy
 - b) Solar Energy
 - c) Geothermal Energy

8. Biofuels such as cornstalks, cut grass from lawnmowers and dried cow manure can be burned to heat buildings. What is the name of living things that can produce energy?
 - a) Geysers
 - b) Biomass
 - c) Biofuels



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READING LESSON - VOCABULARY

Below are several words that may be new to your vocabulary that you read in Alternative Energy, by Christine Petersen. Fill in each blank with the correct word.

Geyser	Hydro	Hybrid Electric Vehicle
Fossil Fuels	Magma	Biofuels
Solar Cell	Energy	

1. Hot melted rock beneath the Earth's surface is known as _____.
2. _____ can be used as alternative fuels and are made from living things such as corn, wood or animal oils.
3. Oil, gas and coal, also known as _____, exist in limited amounts and were created by plants and animals that died millions of years ago.
4. A natural fountain caused when hot water escapes from underground and jets into the air is known as a _____.
5. _____ means "water".
6. A _____ runs on a combination of gasoline and electricity.
7. Any source of power that can be used to do work is called _____.
8. An object made from melted sand that converts sunlight into electricity is called a _____.

