

Electricity & Energy - Energy

by ReadWorks



coal

All life depends on energy. The Earth and our solar system get most of their energy from the sun. Without the sun, life on Earth would not exist. The sun shines on plants, giving them the energy they need to grow and thrive. Animals then eat the plants, which gives them energy, too. Energy is everywhere. It is all around us.

Energy comes from nature. Wind, sun, water, fire, and lightning are all sources of energy. In the United States, the most used sources of energy are fossil fuels such as coal and oil. The energy from fossil fuels gives us most of the electricity that lights and heats our homes. Oil also gives us the gasoline that runs our cars. Unfortunately, the burning of fossil fuels pollutes the air.

Scientists are working to develop new ways of providing energy without harming the Earth. Through advances in research of alternative energy sources, the world is slowly changing from using fossil fuels to using wind power, water power, and solar energy. Windmills are used to capture wind power. Dams help to harness the energy from water. Solar panels collect energy from the sun's rays and keep it stored for future use.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Energy on Earth comes from

- A. other planets.
- B. the sun.
- C. plants.
- D. the moon.

2. The passage describes the problem of fossil fuels causing pollution. What is a solution in the passage for this problem?

- A. using gasoline in cars
- B. using alternative energy sources
- C. making oil illegal
- D. promoting bicycle programs

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"The sun shines on plants, giving them the energy they need to grow and thrive. Animals then eat the plants, which gives them energy, too. Energy is everywhere. It is all around us."

What can you conclude based on this evidence?

- A. The only form of energy we rely on is the sun.
- B. Energy can only move between plants and animals.
- C. Animals don't need the sun to survive.
- D. Energy can be transferred between living things.

4. What can you infer about energy based on the passage?

- A. Energy can only come from fossil fuels.
- B. There is usable energy all around us.
- C. Wind is the most efficient source of energy.
- D. We will always rely on fossil fuels.

5. This passage is mostly about
- A. where energy comes from and how it is used.
 - B. how wind energy is different from fossil fuels.
 - C. how plants use the sun's energy.
 - D. how animals use energy from plants.

6. Read the following sentence: "The sun shines on plants, giving them the energy they need to grow and **thrive**."

The word **thrive** means

- A. wilt
- B. be born
- C. live well
- D. plant seeds

7. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Scientists want to develop new ways of providing energy without harming the earth, _____ they are researching alternative energy sources.

- A. then
- B. but
- C. meanwhile
- D. so

8. What sources of energy does the passage describe besides fossil fuels?

9. Based on the passage, why would the world be "slowly changing" from fossil fuels to other energy sources, rather than quickly changing?
