

Activity 3

Our sun - the primary source of energy

The main sources of energy in the world today are fossil fuels (oil, coal, gas and peat). We burn these fuels to create electricity to power our homes, schools, offices and industries.

Fossil fuels were formed from decaying plants and animals. These plants and animals relied on the sun either directly (plants) or indirectly (animals eat plants or other animals that ate plants) for their survival. So essentially, fossil fuels contain the captured energy of the sun from millions of years ago.

This activity will enable you to understand how most of our modern day energy sources can be traced back to the sun.

YOU WILL NEED Appendix 2
'Evidence cards' •

- 1 Divide the class into groups.
- 2 Copy enough evidence cards for each group in the class.
- 3 Hand out the cards and ask each group to arrange them by connecting all the different forms of energy back to the primary source, so that it looks like an 'energy web'.

Consider this

Can all sources of energy be related back to the sun?

Can you think how the power of running water, hydropower, might connect back to the sun?



Tell Me More!

The sun's solar power can provide energy to generate electricity, power cars, charge batteries and heat water. It is a renewable source of energy that does not harm the environment. Scientists and engineers are developing more efficient ways to harness the sun's energy to provide as much of our daily energy needs as possible. The more solar power we can use the less harmful fossil fuels we will need to burn.