

Can You Dig It?*

An Educator's Reference Desk Lesson Plan

Grade Level(s): Kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Subject(s):

- Science/Environmental Education

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to identify interrelationships between daily activities which require energy and the renewable and nonrenewable resources which are used to provide the energy.

MATERIALS: Paper, glue, drawing materials, magazines

ACTIVITY:

The students will brainstorm a group list of things they do each day which require energy, for example, watching television, driving a car with their parents, burning a fire in a fireplace, cooking dinner on a stove. Encouraging variety, the students should pick one or more activities from the list and do research to find out where the energy comes from that makes the activity possible. For example, the electricity used to operate a television set might be derived from hydroelectric turbines powered by water and stored behind a dam.

Students should be provided with drawing materials and/or magazines from which they might cut photos. Each student will draw, or cut from a magazine, two pictures -- one representing the activity requiring energy they chose to research, and the other showing the major natural resource which is used to provide the energy for the activity.

Students will discuss the terms "renewable resource" and "nonrenewable resource." They will group their pictures, displaying them under one or the other of these categories. Then questions such as the following should be discussed:

Which activities depend on renewable natural resources for their major energy source? Which on nonrenewable natural resources? Are there ways each of us might change our daily habits to use energy more appropriately?

EXTENSIONS: Older students might find out about the environmental and monetary costs related to providing energy from each source. Discuss which common uses of energy seem most appropriate for which sources.