

Unit 6 Saving Energy

1. Whole class instruction

Objective: Students learn how saving energy at home can help the planet and also help save money. Students gain an appreciation for how land can be overused, or used in ways that harm the land.



1.1. Go to Textbook pages 26-27

“What are some ways you can save energy at home?”

- ▶ Discuss with students how everyone can save energy by doing things like turning off lights and other electronic items when they are not in use.
- ▶ Discuss ways that people can make their houses more energy efficient. Which of the above methods are easy to do after a house has been built, and which are easier to do while building a house?

Rainforest People Creative Topic Book

This book tells the story of what has happened to the Amazon rainforest because it is being used for energy by more and more people.

1.2. Go to Textbook pages 28-29

“In many places around the world, people do not get food from shops and energy from the mains, they have to get it from the land instead.”

- ▶ Discuss how people in many parts of the world depend on the land not only for food, but energy as well.
- ▶ Ask students how they might cook food if they did not have gas or electricity in their homes. When they answer that they would use a fire, point out that many people burn wood for fuel, and they end up cutting down all the trees. This leads to deforestation, soil erosion and other problems that also make farming more difficult.
- ▶ Use the illustrations on pages 28 and 29 to discuss how getting energy from the environment can cause damage to the environment and make life harder. Contrast this with some of the simple methods shown on page 29 for protecting the environment while still using the resources.

Some students may want to read the introductory pages of the book. Depending on ability, you may want to focus on the photo pages instead. Discuss with students that the rainforest can easily support small numbers of people living there – this is shown on pages 6-13.

2a. Group exploration

2.1. Saving energy in the Developing World

- ▶ The Developing technology videos on the website illustrate a number of ways that people in poor countries can practise sustainable techniques and use the environment in ways that do not permanently damage it. You may like to assign each group a different video to watch and report on. For example, Uganda bananas, India 1 and Ghana are about solar energy, Tanzania is about affordable stoves, Nepal 1 describes using dung for fuel, India 2 and India 4 describe using human waste and biogas for energy, and China is about cheap, energy efficient stoves.



2b. Literacy activity

Go to Literacy>>Repairing land

- ▶ This unit describes what happens when people overuse the land and it becomes deforested.

**Comprehension
workbook 8
Repairing land**

3. Plenary session

- ▶ Review some of the things that people use energy for, such as heating, cooking and lighting, and how we can use less energy. Ask students where people get energy and food from when they can't go to the shops or use the mains. When they answer "the land", ask students what can happen to the land when too many people try to take food and energy from it in unsustainable ways.

4. Further work/homework

- ▶ You can further combine this with a science lesson by having students design or build solar cookers.