



Watts On Your Mind?

Solar energy educational activities for schools

Activity Overview

Grade Level: K-2

Activity: LE-5

General Description

Students will create art posters that represent various renewable energy themes.

Learning Outcome

Students will use their creativity to represent an idea through the use of imagery. Students will envision how renewable energy can be used in the future.

Subjects

Science, social studies, art

Process Skills

Identifying important facts, using art skills, working in a group

Duration

1 hour

Key Vocabulary

Solar energy, renewable energy

Curriculum Standards

Texas (TEKS)

112.2.a.4, 112.3.a.4, 112.4.a.4

Louisiana (LSCS)

ESS-E-B5

Arkansas (ASCF)

3.1.4, 3.1.11

National (AAAS Project 2061

The Physical Setting – 2nd

Solar Energy Poster Contest

Materials

- Paper for posters
- Markers or crayons
- Timeline information (from previous activity)

Method

1. Divide class into groups of 2 to 4 students.
2. Assign a theme for each group to represent on its poster. Example themes include:
 - “Solar Energy in the Past”
 - “Solar Energy Today”
 - “Solar Energy in the Future”
 - “Solar Energy in My Community”
 - “How I Can Use Solar Energy at Home”
 - “How I Can Use Solar Energy at School”
 - “Solar Energy: The Infinite Power of [Your State]”Themes also can include time periods from the history of solar energy timeline (see activity LE-2).
3. Groups will decide what information is most interesting and important and create a poster.
4. Groups will share poster with the class. Each group will describe the meaning of their poster.
5. Teachers or students can cast ballots for awards such as “most creative”, “most colorful”, “most informative”, “most realistic”, “most imaginative”, “most artistic”, “neatest”, and other award categories.



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Discussion

Art projects present a simple way for children to communicate their ideas about a subject with others. In this exercise, students work in groups, but students also can work alone in this activity. The class presentation is an important part of the learning process, requiring students to communicate information to others verbally as well as visually. In addition, the class presentation presents the instructor with an opportunity for assessment of each student.

Assessment

Students will cooperatively create posters and communicate information on solar energy. Students can be assessed on their ability to work cooperatively (if they work in groups), on their creativity as expressed in their art, and on their ability to clearly present their poster to the class.

Source: This activity adapted from the Texas Solar Energy Society's annual Renewable Energy Art and Essay Contest.