

SECTION 1 ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: The History of Energy

ACTIVITY TYPE: Class Project

OVERVIEW: In this project the class will develop its own newspaper, *The Energy Times*, which will cover society at a chosen time in history. The focus will be on energy production and use, and will include newsworthy events and inventions as well as interviews and human interest stories. See the “For the Teacher” pages of the exercise for detailed planning overview.

GOAL: Students investigate past and present energy use while developing their own historical newspaper.

SUBJECTS: Language Arts, Fine Arts, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, History, Geography, and Government

TIME: 3-5 45-minute class periods

SETTING: Classroom, computer lab, and library.

MATERIALS:

- Teacher guides: *The Energy Times: Planning Overview* and *Energy Timeline*
- Student Reading: *A Brief History of Energy* (Chapter 1 from *Energy for Keeps: Electricity from Renewable Energy*)
- Student Handout: *The Energy Times: Getting Out the Newspaper*
- A variety of local, state, or national newspapers
- Pens, pencils, marking pens, paper
- Research materials including books, encyclopedias, Internet access, library references
- Tape, rulers, rubber cement, glue sticks, scissors

OPTIONAL MATERIALS:

- Tabloid-sized paper (Rolls of newsprint are sometimes available from local newspapers.)
- Computers and word-processing programs
- Computer graphics programs
- E-mail or web page software and Internet access

KEY VOCABULARY: A.D., alloy, alternator, B.C., blast furnace, charcoal, coke, combustion, dynamo, electromagnetism, energy conservation, fossil fuel, generator, geothermal, heat engine, hydropower, industrial, Industrial Revolution, internal combustion engine, manufacture, mass, mass produced, medieval, organic, passive solar, smelt, static electricity, Stirling engine, telegraph, textile, town gas, transmit, voltage, and wet-cell battery.



✦ ACTIVITY 1: THE HISTORY OF ENERGY

source: *The Energy Education Group*

Energy for Keeps: Electricity from Renewable Energy

CORRELATIONS TO STANDARDS	
NATIONAL	Science and Technology – 2: Understandings about science and technology.
IDAHO	Science – Goal 1.1: Understand systems, order, and organization. Science – Goal 1.6: Understand scientific inquiry and develop critical thinking skills.
OREGON	Science – The Dynamic Earth: Describe how the importance and use of resources has changed over time with changes in economic and technological systems.
WASHINGTON	Science – Inquiry 2.1 Investigating Systems: Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to do scientific inquiry.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS: The Energy Education Group (a.k.a. Educators for the Environment) is a division of The California Study, Inc., a domestic nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Tiburon, California. Its expertise is in energy education with a focus on power generation. Its goal is to help people understand where our electricity comes from and how energy choices affect our lives, our environment, and future generations.