

Teacher:
Date:
Grade:

Subject / Course: ELA
Unit Title: Solar Power (Mini-Lesson)
Duration: 15–20 Minutes

CCRS:

- RF.4.4** Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
- L.4.1** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing (printing, cursive, or keyboarding) or speaking.
- L.4.2** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, when writing.
- L.4.4a** Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

Summary of Unit:

Solar Power. Reading comprehension and summary of article explaining solar energy.

Lesson Objectives:

- Read grade level informative article on solar energy
- Answer comprehension questions and write a summary of an informative article

Lesson Structure:

- The teacher will introduce the lesson by showing the *Mississippi, Believe It!*TM Campaign poster about the solar powered car. The teacher and students can read and discuss the poster to create background knowledge of solar energy before reading an informative article.
- The teacher will have students read the “Solar Powered Car” article. This can be shown on the board to be read as a whole group or copies can be given to individuals for independent reading.
- After reading the article, students will complete the “Sun Power” handout. This can be used for review or as an assessment.

Guiding Questions:

1. Share what you know about solar power.
2. What do good readers do as they read an informative article?
3. How do you tell the difference between important information and non-important information?
4. Describe a well-written summary.

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Key Vocabulary:

- Solar energy

Resources & Materials

- Whiteboard
- Charts/Maps
- Computer
- Smartboard
- Video/Audio
- Textbook Pages
- Workbook Pages
- Handout
- Manipulatives
- Other:

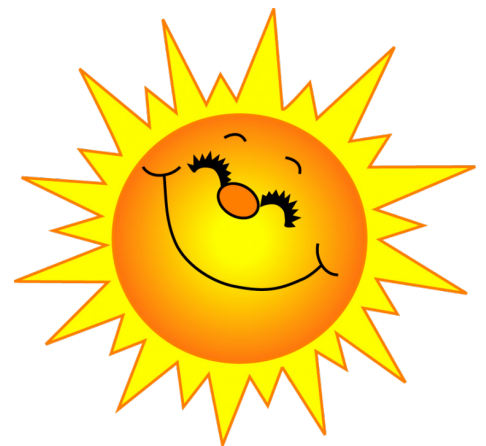
Assessments:

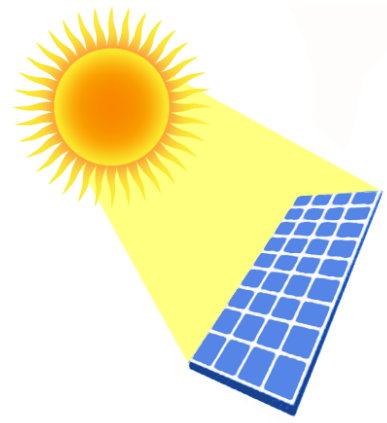
- Pre-Test
- Post-Test
- Observation
- Oral
- Writing Assessment
- Journal
- Homework
- Demonstration
- Other:



The Solar Car Challenge began in 1993 and was created to inspire high school students to use their math and science knowledge to create cars that move by the sun's power. This is called "solar energy." Solar energy is when the sun's light and heat create power for things like automobiles, heaters, and electricity. Solar cars also help students learn about energy and saving resources. Solar energy can replace the use of gas in things like cars. Students work in groups to design and create cars using their own creativity and technology. These solar cars can be very expensive! Many schools have to raise money to help pay for the parts to the cars.

We have an amazing group of high school students that compete in this competition right here in Mississippi. The Sundancer Solar Race Team from Houston, MS, has won first place in the Open Division of the Dell-Winston School Solar Car Challenge many times. This Mississippi high school team has won 14 national championships with their solar powered skills.





Sun Power!

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. In the first paragraph, what do the words “solar energy” mean?

2. What clues help you understand the meaning of the words “solar energy”?

3. What was the main idea of this article?

4. Write 3 important facts from the article.

- 1.) _____
- 2.) _____
- 3.) _____

