

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Compare and Contrast

Read the short story. Then answer each question.



## Solar Energy

Liam visited a science museum and saw a house with shiny panels on the roof. "Those are solar panels," the guide said. "They turn sunlight into electricity!"

Solar energy comes from the sun. Solar panels collect the sun's light and turn it into power we can use in our homes and schools. People use this energy to turn on lights, charge phones, or power machines.

One reason people like solar energy is that it doesn't create pollution. It also comes from the sun, which means we can't run out of it. However, solar panels only work when the sun is shining, and they can be expensive to install.



## Wind Energy

Nina saw huge windmills on a trip through the countryside. "Those are wind turbines," her uncle explained. "They use wind to make electricity."

Wind energy is created when moving air spins the blades of a wind turbine. The spinning blades turn a machine inside that makes electricity. Like solar energy, wind energy doesn't create pollution.

Wind energy is useful in places where the wind blows often. But if the wind stops, the turbines don't work. Also, wind farms take up a lot of space, and some people think they are too noisy.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Solar Energy & Wind Energy

1. What is one way solar and wind energy are alike?

- A. Both come from machines inside the ground.
- B. Both are renewable and don't cause pollution.
- C. Both only work at night.
- D. Both use gas to make power.

2. What is one main difference between the two types of energy?

- A. Solar energy is free, but wind energy costs money.
- B. Wind energy needs rain, but solar energy doesn't.
- C. Solar energy uses sunlight; wind energy uses moving air.
- D. Wind energy is stronger than sunlight.

3. Fill in the blank:

Solar panels only work when the \_\_\_\_\_ is shining.

4. What are two ways solar and wind energy are similar and two ways they are different?

---

---

---

5. Why do you think some people choose one kind of clean energy over another?

---

---

---



# Parent and Teacher Guide

---

**Guide Reading Level:** L

**Lexile Level:** 355L-505L

**Grade Level:** 2nd Grade, Middle of the Year

---

## Introducing the Text

"Today, we're going to learn about two types of clean energy—**solar** and **wind**. Both of these help us make electricity without polluting the Earth. As we read, we'll look for how these two kinds of energy are the same and how they are different."

**Vocabulary:** solar panel, turbine, electricity, pollution, renewable

---

## Discussion Questions Before Reading

1. Have you ever seen a solar panel or a wind turbine? Where?
  2. What do you know about how we get electricity?
  3. Why might people want clean energy instead of other kinds?
- 

## Discussion Questions During Reading

1. How does a solar panel create power?
  2. What makes wind turbines spin?
  3. What are some problems with using solar or wind energy?
- 

## Discussion Questions After Reading

1. What are the most important points in each text?
  2. What ideas are similar in both? What ideas are different?
  3. How might reading both texts help you decide which energy you would use?
- 

## Activity Idea

Have students create a **T-chart** to compare solar and wind energy. Then, ask them to write a **short opinion paragraph** explaining which energy they would rather use and why, using details from both texts.

