

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Academic Vocabulary

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Read the short story and answer each question.



## Power from Nature

Our world runs on energy. We use it to power lights, heat homes, and charge phones. But not all energy is the same. Some energy sources, like coal and oil, come from underground and take millions of years to form. Once we use them up, they're gone. That's why scientists and engineers are turning to **renewable energy**.

**Renewable energy** comes from natural sources that never run out—like sunlight, wind, and water. These sources are constantly available and can be used again and again without harming the planet.

One example is **solar energy**. It comes from the sun's rays. **Solar panels** are devices that capture sunlight and turn it into electricity. They're often found on rooftops or in wide fields.

Another source is **wind energy**. Huge machines called **turbines** have long blades that spin when the wind blows. As they turn, they generate electricity. Wind farms are groups of turbines that work together to power homes and cities.

There's also **hydropower**, which uses moving water from rivers or dams to spin turbines and produce electricity. All these methods create power without pollution.

Using renewable energy helps with **sustainability**—the idea of meeting today's needs without hurting the future. If we use clean energy now, we protect our planet and ensure resources will still be here for generations to come.



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

## Power from Nature

1. What is the meaning of *renewable energy* in the passage?

- A. Energy that is very expensive to use
- B. Energy from sources that can be used again and don't run out
- C. Energy made by burning coal or oil
- D. Energy that works only during winter

2. What does *turbine* mean as used in the text?

- A. A type of small battery
- B. A machine that spins to make electricity
- C. A kind of solar panel
- D. A place where people store water

3. Fill in the blank:

**Sustainability** means using natural resources in a way that doesn't hurt the ability of \_\_\_\_\_ people to meet their needs.

4. Choose two domain-specific words from the text and explain what they mean and how the author helps the reader understand them.

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5. Why is understanding the meaning of words like *renewable*, *solar panel*, or *sustainability* important when reading science texts?

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# Instructional Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** S

**Lexile Level:** 850L-1000L

**Grade Level:** 4th Grade, End of the Year

**Genre:** Informational Nonfiction – Environmental Science

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## Introducing the Text

“In this passage, students will explore how renewable energy works and why sustainability matters. They’ll learn how to use context clues to figure out the meaning of domain-specific science terms and explain why those words help them better understand the topic.”

**Vocabulary:** renewable, sustainability, turbine, solar panel, hydropower

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about clean or renewable energy?
  2. Why do you think scientists are interested in using sunlight, wind, and water as power?
  3. What might happen if we run out of fossil fuels like coal and oil?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the author help you understand the word *renewable*?
  2. What are turbines, and how do they make electricity?
  3. Why is solar energy considered clean energy?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How do the science words in the text help explain how renewable energy works?
  2. Which vocabulary word was the easiest to understand, and which was the hardest? Why?
  3. How does understanding *sustainability* help you think about energy choices?
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## Activity Idea

Have students create an illustrated vocabulary booklet using the five domain-specific words from the text. For each word, students must include a definition (in their own words), an example sentence using context clues, and a picture. Then, display the booklets during a science showcase or Earth Day activity.

