

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Main Ideas & Summarize

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Power of Wind

Wind is more than just a breeze on a cool day. It is a **natural force** that can change the land, move weather, and even power our homes. Wind is caused by the uneven heating of Earth's surface. Warm air rises, and cooler air rushes in to take its place. That movement creates wind.

Over time, wind can shape the land by moving sand, dust, and soil. Strong winds can form sand dunes in deserts and even wear down rocks. In cold places, wind can push snow into tall drifts.

But wind doesn't just change the land—it can also be used to create **energy**. Wind turbines are tall machines with long blades. When wind turns the blades, they spin a machine inside that makes electricity. This is called **wind energy**, and it's one of the cleanest energy sources in the world because it doesn't pollute the air.

Wind energy is growing in many countries. Farmers sometimes place wind turbines in their fields, and engineers even build wind farms in oceans to catch the strong sea winds.

Wind is invisible, but its power can be seen all around us.



Name: _____

The Power of Wind

1. What is one of the main ideas of this text?

- A. Wind is a natural force that can shape the land.
- B. Wind helps plants grow faster.
- C. Wind makes deserts hotter.
- D. Wind comes from the ocean.

2. What is another main idea from the passage?

- A. Wind energy is a clean way to make electricity.
- B. Wind power is used only in large cities.
- C. Wind turbines make wind stronger.
- D. Wind is dangerous and should be avoided.

3. Fill in the blank:

Wind is created when warm air rises and _____ air rushes in to take its place.

4. Which details in the text support the idea that wind can change the environment over time?

5. Write a short summary of the passage using both main ideas and at least two supporting facts.



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: S

Lexile Level: 850L-1000L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational – Physical Science

Introducing the Text

“This text explains how wind affects our environment and how people use wind to create energy. Students will practice identifying two main ideas, finding supporting details, and writing a clear summary that includes those ideas.”

Vocabulary: natural force, wind energy, turbine, erosion, electricity

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about how wind affects the land or weather?
 2. Have you seen wind turbines or windmills before? What do you think they do?
 3. Why might wind be a useful energy source?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What examples show that wind is powerful in nature?
 2. What makes wind energy different from other energy sources?
 3. How do engineers use wind in creative ways?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are the two main ideas of this passage?
 2. How do the examples in the text support each idea?
 3. What does the text suggest about how people and nature both use wind?
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Activity Idea

Have students draw a two-part diagram: one side showing how wind shapes the land (e.g., sand dunes, snow drifts) and the other side showing how wind is used for energy (e.g., wind turbines). Then write a caption for each half explaining the main idea and one detail from the text.

