Power from the Sun and Wind

Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 217 words | Reasons and evidence

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 Most of the electricity in the United States is made by burning coal and natural gas. These fuels formed underground over millions of years, so once we use them up, they are gone. Burning them also releases gases that pollute the air and warm the planet. That is why more and more power now comes from two **sources** that will never run out: the sun and the wind.

2 Solar panels are made of special cells that turn sunlight directly into electricity. They can sit on rooftops, cover huge fields or even power a calculator. Wind turbines work differently. Their giant blades catch the wind and spin a **generator,** much like a pinwheel turning a tiny motor.

3 Both **sources** have challenges. The sun does not shine at night, and the wind does not always blow. To solve this problem, engineers store extra electricity in huge batteries. They also connect power lines from many places, so when it is calm in one area, power can flow in from a windy one.

4 Supporters point to strong **evidence** that these **sources** are worth it. They make no air pollution while they run, and the cost of solar and wind power has dropped sharply in the past fifteen years. In many places, they are now among the cheapest ways to make electricity.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Power from the Sun and Wind: questions

Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the text to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. Why will coal and gas run out?

(a) they formed very slowly (b) people dislike them (c) they are too heavy

2. How does a wind turbine work?

(a) it soaks up sunlight
(b) its blades spin a generator
(c) it burns gas

3. Which is evidence they are worth it?

(a) they work only at night (b) panels are heavy (c) their cost has dropped

2 True or false? Circle one.

Solar panels turn sunlight into electricity.	True	False
Wind turbines work best when the air is still.	True	False
Batteries can store extra electricity.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Power from the Sun and Wind: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

sources ○	○ a machine that makes electricity
generator ○	○ places something comes from
evidence ○	○ facts that show something is true

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

The author says solar and wind power are worth it. Give two reasons or pieces of evidence from the text.

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: Power from the Sun and Wind

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) they formed very slowly
2. b) its blades spin a generator
3. c) their cost has dropped

2 True or false

True: Solar panels turn sunlight into electricity.

False: Wind turbines work best when the air is still.

True: Batteries can store extra electricity.

3 Word meanings

sources: places something comes from

generator: a machine that makes electricity

evidence: facts that show something is true

4 Written answer (sample)

They make no air pollution while they run, and their cost has dropped so much that they are now among the cheapest ways to make electricity.

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