



STUFFED SUNS

RYAN JONES

Time Frame:	Standards:
45 Minutes Kindergarten	K.S.1.7.1 Use cooperation and interaction skills K.S.1.8.1 Follow instructions
Objectives:	
The student will identify several ways that the sun's energy is of benefit to us.	
Background Information:	
<p>The sun is the primary source of all energy on Earth. It radiates energy in the form of heat and light. Solar energy drives the water cycle, it is used by plant to provide the world's food energy, and it was the primary force in the formation of fossil fuels-coal, oil, and natural gas. It also creates winds and ocean currents.</p> <p>We can collect and manage the sun's energy. We can use it to heat and cool buildings and water systems; to generate electricity in solar thermal electric power towers; and to power such items as watches, calculators, and weather stations that use photovoltaic's or solar cells.</p> <p>There are situations that affect our use of solar energy like the position of the sun (daily and seasonally), clouds, smoke and smog, trees, buildings, and land surfaces. We need sunlight to keep us healthy and happy, but too much can give us sunburn. The sun is renewable energy; it is abundant, convenient, nonpolluting, and affordable. It is the ultimate energy source.</p>	
Materials:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 18"x 36" pieces of butcher paper or newsprint● Crayons, poster paint, or markers● Staples and stapler● Old newspaper or shredded paper● String	

Energy for Educators

Bringing Energy into the Classroom

Procedure:

1. Discuss with students the sources of energy that receive energy directly or indirectly from the sun. Examples include: coal, oil, water power, wind, natural gas, food, wood, gasoline. Explain that fossil fuels-coal, oil, natural gas-come from plants and marine animals that have been buried for millions of years. The weight from the layers of mud and sand created pressure and heat that changed the plants and marine animals into fossil fuels.
2. Help the students trace the energy sources mentioned in 1 back to the sun.
3. Help the students make the stuffed suns.
 - A. Give each student an 18"x 36" piece of butcher paper or newsprint
 - B. Instruct the students to fold their paper in half and paint or color a large sun on both front and back of the fold. Encourage to be creative! To provide younger students with math practice, instruct some to make suns with 8 points, some with 10 points, and some with 12 or 15 points. Suggest to them that they make half of their points long and half of them short.
 - C. On the points, print some of the different ways we get energy from the sun using the discussion from step 1.
 - D. Staple across the top and one side or cut the suns out and staple around two-thirds of the edge.
 - E. Stuff with old newspapers or shredded paper
 - F. Decorate the room with the stuffed suns by taping or stapling string to them and hanging them from the ceiling.

Extra: After you've decorated the room with your beautiful suns, have the students sing them to the tune of Row, Row Your Boat. Try a round or add a second verse.

Oh, we love the sun
With all its shinning rays.
It gives us light and energy
In many different ways

Assessment:

Have the students list as many sources of energy as they can think of that get their energy from the sun.



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Additional Content:

N/A

References:

National Energy Foundation-Resources for Educators
Energy Fun-Integrated Learning Activities-Primary
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