

Vocabulary

Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.

anthracite the final stage in the formation of coal; it is very hard and burns cleanly

biomass fuel a burnable fuel made from plant and animal material
Examples: wood and peat

bituminous the third stage in the formation of coal; it is soft and gives off a lot of heat when burned

coal fossil fuel that comes from plants that lived millions of years ago

conserve to save natural resources for the future

electricity the type of energy produced by using natural resources such as water, wind, and fossil fuels to power a generator

energy the ability to do work or move objects

fossil fuel fuel made from decayed plants and animals that lived millions of years ago preserved below Earth's crust
Examples: coal, oil, natural gas

geothermal energy energy produced by the heat from inside Earth's crust

Vocabulary

- hydroelectricity** electricity produced by falling water
- lignite** the second stage in the formation of coal; it is moist and still has bits of woody tissue in it
- methane** natural gas used in stoves and for heating homes
- natural gas** a fossil fuel in its gaseous state found along with oil deposits
- natural resources** materials found on or inside Earth's crust that people can use
- nonrenewable** materials that are used up faster than they can be replaced in nature or can be used only once
- nuclear energy** energy produced by splitting the nucleus of the uranium atom
- oil shale** sedimentary rock with oil trapped between its layers
- peat** the first stage of the formation of coal; formed from decomposed plants
- petroleum or oil** liquid fossil fuel formed from plants and animals that lived in the sea

Vocabulary

- renewable** materials that can be replaced in nature at a rate close to their rate of use or used over again
- solar cells** a device used to collect energy from the sun and transform it into electricity
- solar collectors** large panels that collect solar energy that will be used to heat water, etc.
- solar energy** energy from the sun
- tidal power** the energy from the two-way flow of the tides used to produce electricity
- wind power** energy of the wind used to create electricity