

THE SHOCKING TRUTH ABOUT ENERGY

LOREEN LEEDY

GRADES
K-3

ABOUT THE BOOK

This high-voltage introduction to energy combines physical science and environmental science with fun.

Comical characters explain the basics, including the many forms energy can take. Readers can learn how energy changes from one form to another so that the Sun's energy can end up in a lunch box and eventually in people's muscles. Easy-to-follow diagrams show different ways energy can be harnessed. For a green look at the topic, the pros and cons of each form of energy are outlined, and tips on how to use energy sensibly are included.

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Language Arts

Saving Energy—Pages 26-28 and 31 in the book present a variety of things we can all do to save energy. Students, along with their families, can begin to put some of these ideas into action and can keep a personal log—perhaps for one month—describing everything they did to save energy. Their logs can be compiled into a class book and can be shared with other classes.

Oral Language—Using the tips from the students' logs mentioned above, students can prepare and perform an assembly program on saving energy that can be presented to the whole school. They can write dialogue for skits depicting "before and after" scenarios showing what they and their families said and did, and what they changed; they can write and recite poetry about how saving energy helps us all; or they can present illustrated charts of energy-saving tips.

Additional Reading—Students can also read and explore the book *Flick a Switch: How Electricity Gets to Your Home* by Barbara Seuling (Holiday House, 2000) which further explains how electricity is generated and distributed.

Art

The illustrator of this book uses diagrams to show how the various types of energy are generated. After doing additional research, students may want to create their own original diagrams with the appropriate labels.

Research

Sources of Energy—Students may be interested in discovering more details about many of the things that are mentioned in the book. They can do further research on any of the following: *biodiesel, biogas, electricity, ethanol, fossil fuels, geothermal power, global warming, nuclear power, plant power, renewable power, solar power, water power, wind power*. They can write short reports or create fact charts showing the information they have found.

Online Resources

www.proteacher.org/c/409_Energy.html

This website for teachers presents a variety of activities students can do in the classroom that will enable them to learn more about energy.

www.solarenergy.org/students-and-educators

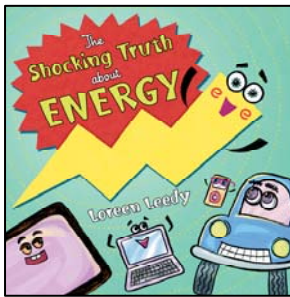
Provides educators and students of all ages with a variety of links to information on solar and other types of energy, including how they are generated and how to save energy, as well as links to many other types of renewable energy.

<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/justforkids/cwp/view.asp?q=472538>

Created by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, this website provides additional information on the various types of energy: solar, hydropower, wind, geothermal, and biomass.

About the Author/Illustrator

Loreen Leedy has written and illustrated more than thirty books for children, including *The Great Graph Contest*, which *School Library Journal* praised as “exciting and energetic” in a starred review. She lives in Florida. Visit her online at <http://www.loreenleedy.com/>.



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Classroom Activities prepared by Sandy Schuckett, school library consultant.