

Where We Get Energy

A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Reader

Word Count: 400

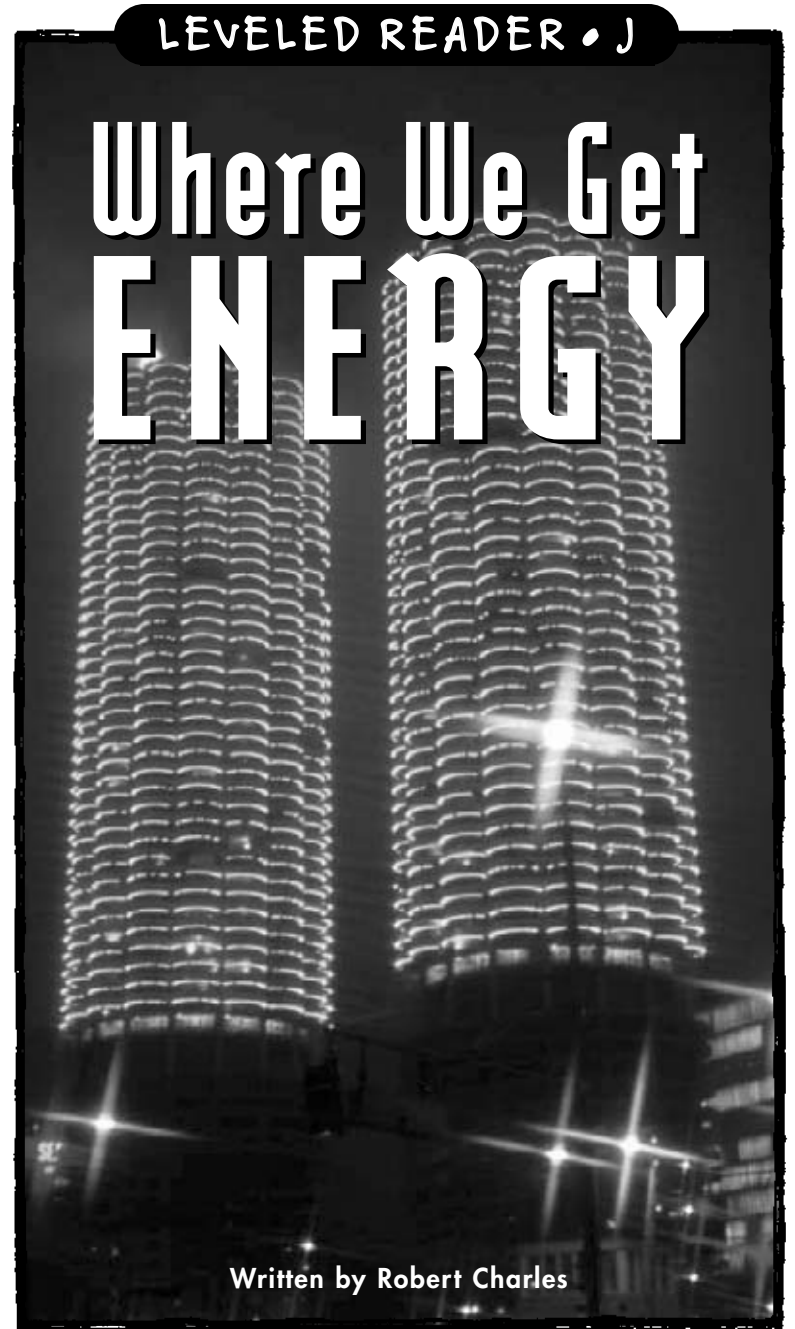


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Where We Get ENERGY



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Level J Leveled Reader
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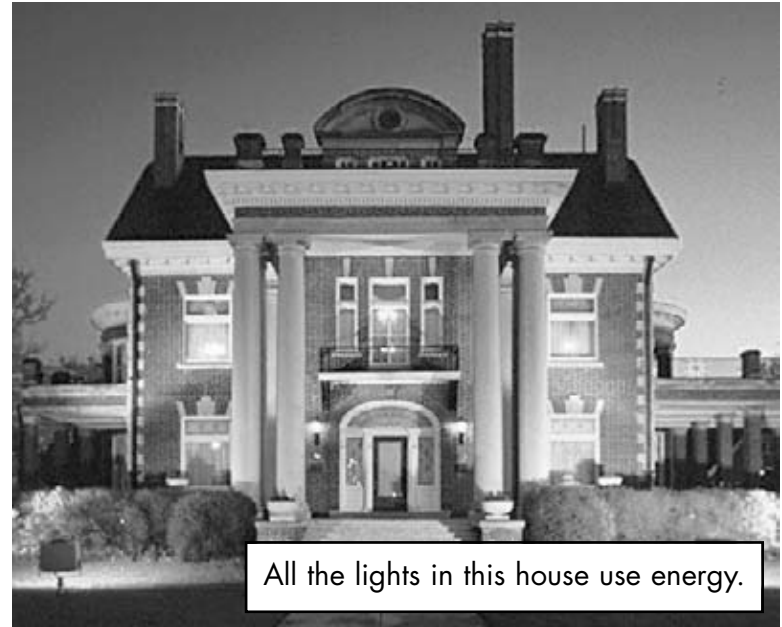
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Introduction

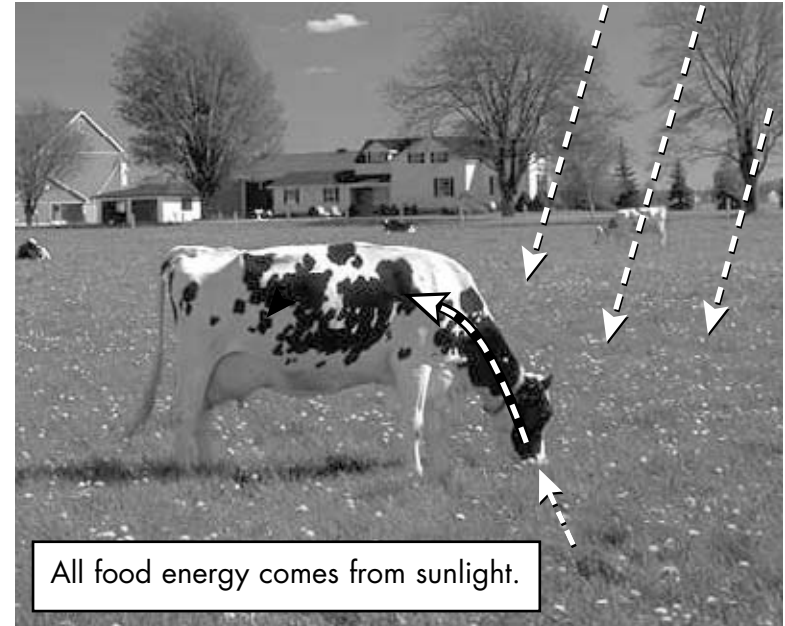
We use **energy** for many of the things we do.

Energy heats and cools our homes, schools, and workplaces.

Energy runs lights, computers, and machines.

Energy moves cars, trucks, planes, and trains.

You need energy to walk,
run, and play.
You need it to think and sleep.
Where does energy come from?



Energy from Food

You get energy by eating
plants and animals.

The animals you eat get energy
from plants they eat.

Green plants make
their own energy.

They take energy from sunlight
and store it as food.

Energy from Gasoline

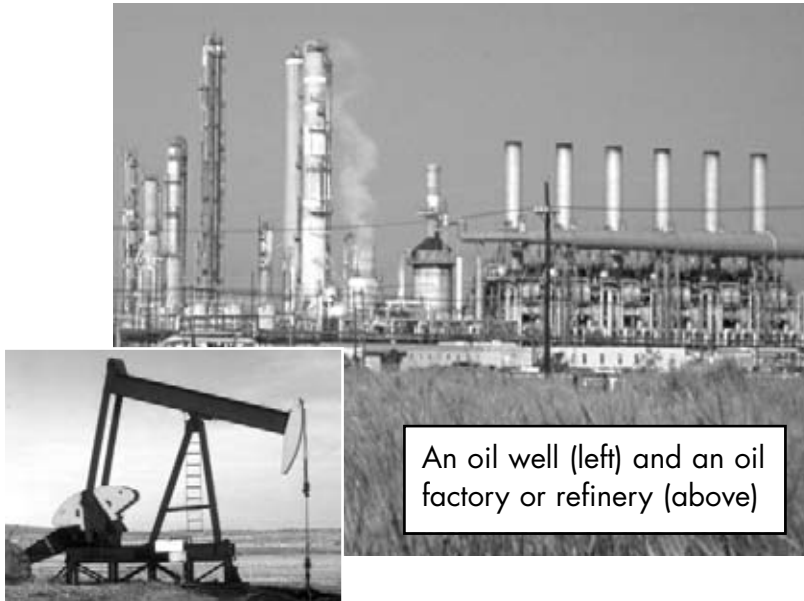
Cars, trucks, planes, and trains get energy from gasoline.

Gasoline comes from oil.

Oil is a liquid that lies deep underground.

Wells pump oil from under the ground.

Factories turn the oil into gasoline.



An oil well (left) and an oil factory or refinery (above)



All these things run on electricity.

Electricity

Electricity is a type of energy.

We use electricity to run many things.

How do we get electricity?

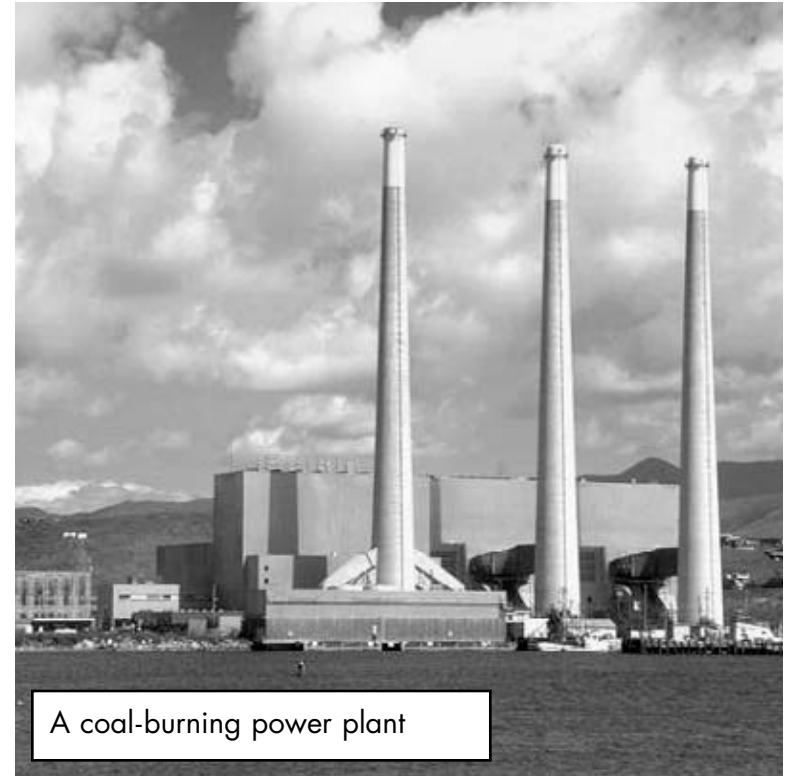
Making Electricity

We use **generators** to make most of our electricity.

A generator turns motion into electricity.

It takes energy to make motion.

Where does this energy come from?



Energy from Oil and Coal

Much of the energy used to make electricity comes from oil and coal.

Like oil, coal comes

from deep underground.

Power plants burn oil and coal to heat water.

Heat from oil and coal changes water into steam. The steam turns large blades inside a generator. The generator changes this motion into electricity.



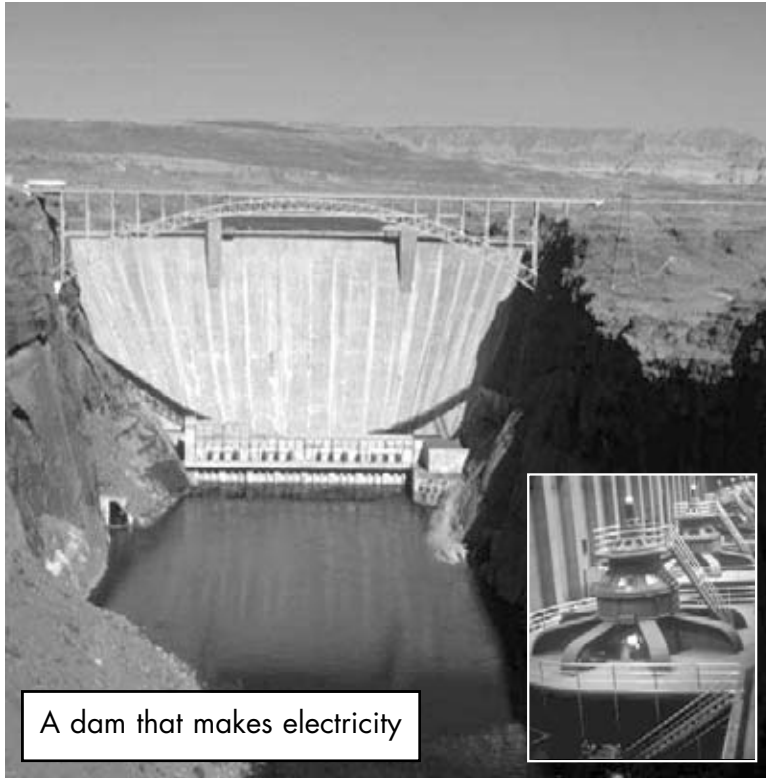
Generators in a power plant



Wind generators

Energy from Wind

Some electricity comes from wind. The wind turns the large blades of a generator. The generator turns the motion into electricity.



A dam that makes electricity

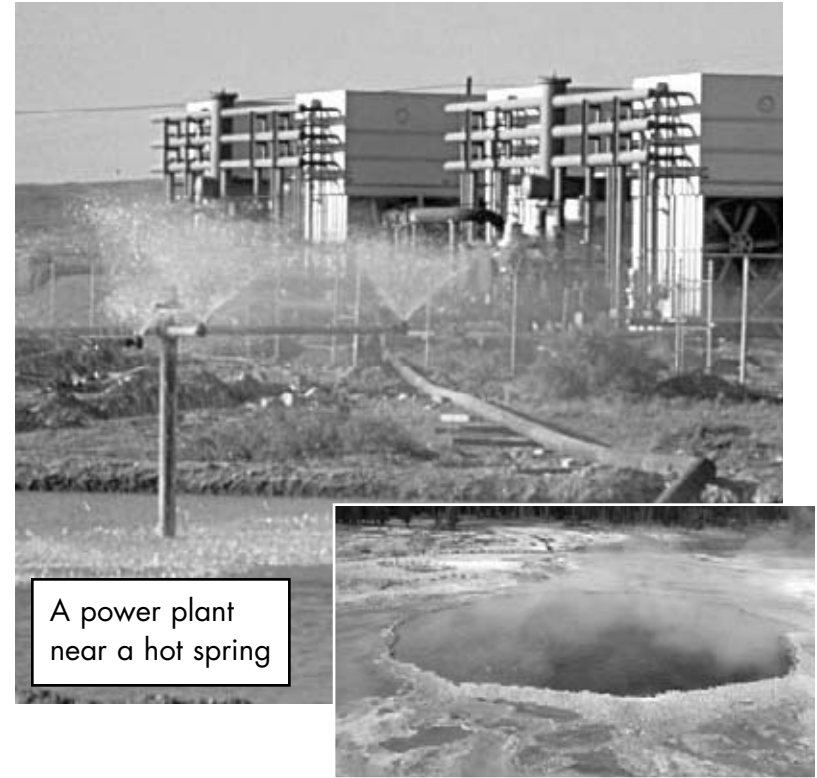
Energy from Water

Some electricity comes from flowing water.

People build dams in rivers.

The water runs through large tubes in the dam.

It turns the blades of a generator.



A power plant near a hot spring

Energy from the Earth

In some places, steam comes out of cracks in the earth.

Hot rocks underground change water into steam.

The steam can turn the blades of a generator.

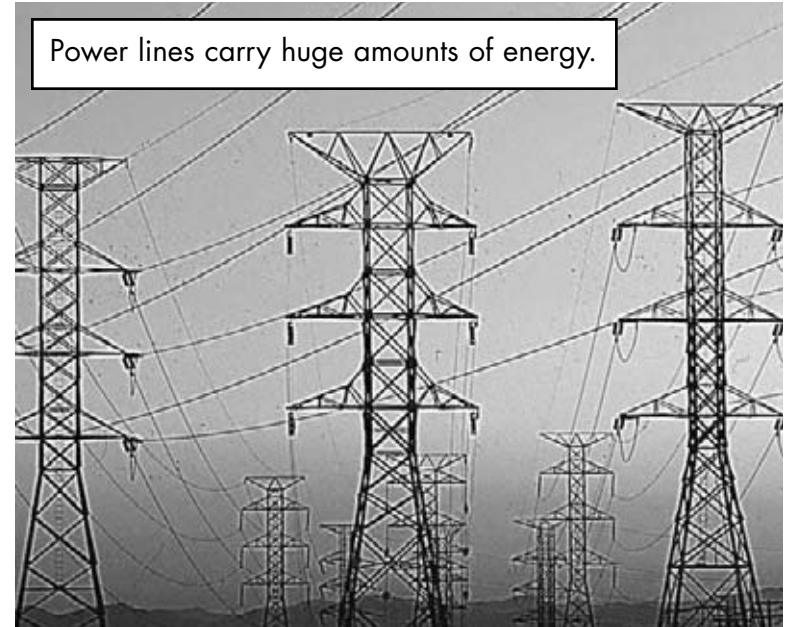
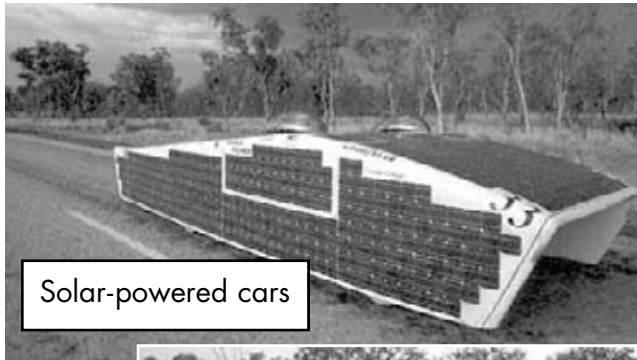
Energy from the Sun

Plants can turn
the sun's energy into food.

People can turn
the sun's energy into electricity.

Solar panels can turn
sunlight into electricity.

Solar panels make these cars move.



Saving Energy

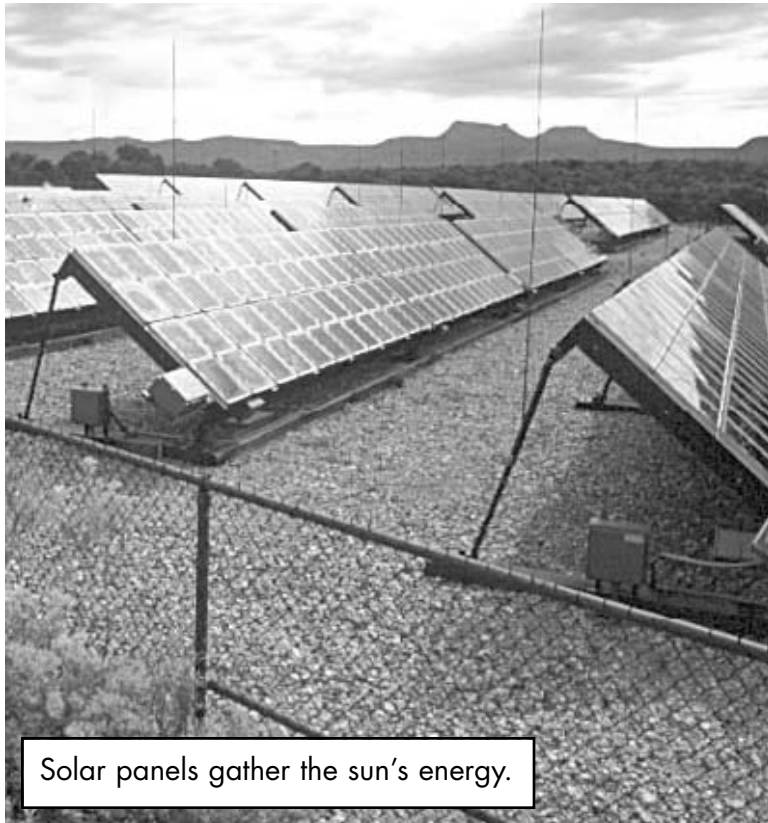
Each year there are more
and more people on Earth.

Those people use more
and more energy.

Today, we get most of our energy
from coal, oil, and natural gas.

Someday there may be
no coal or oil left.

It is important not to waste energy.
We need to save coal and oil.
It is also important to use energy
from things that do not get used up.
Wind, water, sunlight, and steam
from the ground do not get used up.



Solar panels gather the sun's energy.

Glossary

- electricity** a form of energy we use to run lights, computers, and machines (p. 8)
- energy** power that helps us do work and run our bodies and our machines (p. 4)
- generators** machines that turn motion into electricity (p. 9)
- solar panels** panels used to turn sunlight into electricity (p. 15)

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