

# Rainbow Readers

## Title: Energy

### Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

solar	renewable	uranium	nuclear	turbines
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1. Hydroelectric power is renewable but sometimes harmful to fish.
2. Only a few countries have nuclear weapons.
3. Uranium is a powerful but dangerous source of energy.
4. They covered their roof with solar panels to reduce energy costs.
5. Many birds are killed when they fly into wind turbines.

## Reading Comprehension

### A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. Energy changes form but is never destroyed. T / F
2. Fossil fuels are formed from dead plants and animals. T / F
3. It takes a lot of water to clean coal. T / F
4. Hydroelectric plants are expensive to run. T / F
5. Solar power is useful in space. T / F

### B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. The first people to use (electric / steam) power were coal miners.
2. Three-fourths of our energy comes from (fossil fuels / oil).
3. The most common type of renewable energy is (hydroelectric / solar).
4. (Solar / Wind) power does not harm any living things.
5. Geothermal energy comes from (volcanoes / magma).

### C. Choose the best answer.

1. Thomas Edison built a plant to produce \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. steam engines
- b. nuclear power
- c. electricity
- d. coal

2. What moves the turbines in a power plant?

- a. Steam
- b. Magnets
- c. Electric current
- d. Generators

3. Which is NOT true about natural gas?

- a. It does not create much pollution.
- b. It is like the gas used in cars.
- c. It has no smell.
- d. It is often found near oil.

4. Which country uses the most wind power?

- a. Spain
- b. The US
- c. Germany
- d. Japan

5. Which is true about nuclear power?

- a. It pollutes the air.
- b. It makes up half of the world's energy.
- c. It does not require the use of water.
- d. It produces solid waste.

## Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

nonrenewable	magma	panels	generators	reactors
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Energy is the power to do work. The oldest forms of energy used by people are wood, wind, and water. Starting in the 1800s, people learned to use steam, coal, oil, and electricity. Electric energy comes from electrons moving from one atom to another. It is produced by generators in power plants. Coal, oil, and natural gas are fossil fuels. They give us most of our energy. However, they produce pollution and are nonrenewable. The most common form of renewable energy is hydropower. We get it by controlling moving water with dams. Wind turbines and solar panels also give us renewable energy. Nuclear energy is produced when uranium atoms are split in reactors. But this creates dangerous solid waste. Geothermal energy comes from the hot magma deep inside the Earth. All these forms of energy are cleaner than fossil fuels, but they are expensive and have other disadvantages. We have to look for new forms of energy and be careful about how we use it.