

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## “Blow, Wind, Blow” – Wind Power

Do you remember where the wind comes from? When the sun shines during the day, the air over the land warms quicker than the air over the oceans, it expands and rises and the heavier, cooler air rushes in to take its place. The movement of air this causes is called wind. The energy that wind produces is called **renewable energy**, because as long as the sun shines, there will always be wind.

In nature, the wind is necessary for distributing seeds and pollen and for moving the clouds across the sky. Birds ride on the thermals caused by the rising warm air. For thousands of years, people have also made use of the wind. They have used wind power to sail their ships and to turn windmills, which they used to pump water, grind wheat and corn and cut wood.

In the 1920's, before the power lines reached the farms, windmills were also used in rural or farming communities to produce electricity. When the blades of the windmill turn, they turn a **turbine** inside a **generator**. The generator changes the movement of the turbine into electricity.

Today, we know that we are using up our non-renewable resources like oil and coal too quickly and that they will run out some day, so people have been trying out forms of **alternate energy**. Wind power is a form of alternate energy, which is not only renewable but does not pollute our environment.

Because we need a lot of energy to provide us with electricity, instead of a windmill on a farm, we now have wind farms where there are hundreds of huge wind turbines. Wind turbines are much more complicated than the old windmills but they still produce electricity in the same way. The turbines are connected to a power network, which feeds electricity to houses and businesses. Unfortunately, we still don't know how to make the wind turbines produce electricity when the wind is not blowing!

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## “Blow, Wind, Blow” – Wind Power Questions

A: Can you find them?

The wind is hidden among the letters in the table below, together with seven things that are affected by the wind. They are bird, cloud, pollen, seed, ship, turbines and windmill. Can you find them all?

B	C	K	E	T	R	U	L	S
A	L	Q	M	O	W	I	N	D
V	O	N	Z	Y	I	D	F	N
T	U	R	B	I	N	E	S	C
W	D	O	I	X	D	L	H	P
Q	A	E	R	N	M	Y	I	T
S	E	E	D	V	I	W	P	B
I	K	W	J	A	L	Q	U	Z
Y	R	P	O	L	L	E	N	G

B. What do you think?

The reading gives some good reasons for using wind energy. Some people feel that it isn't necessary; they say that the wind turbines can kill birds and that wind farms spoil the look of the land. Write a short essay either agreeing or disagreeing with them and saying why you feel the way you do.

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## “Blow, Wind, Blow” – Wind Power Answers

### Activity A

B	C	K	E	T	R	U	L	S
A	L	Q	M	O	W	I	N	D
V	O	N	Z	Y	I	D	F	N
T	U	R	B	I	N	E	S	C
W	D	O	I	X	D	L	H	P
Q	A	E	R	N	M	Y	I	T
S	E	E	D	V	I	W	P	B
I	K	W	J	A	L	Q	U	Z
Y	R	P	O	L	L	E	N	G

### Activity B

There is obviously no right or wrong point of view but the children should be able to justify their opinions.