

The City School
PAF Chapter, Junior Section
English Homework Worksheet Year – 3



Fossil Fuels

Caption: Mining coal in Wyoming

Have you heard of peat?

How about coal, natural gas, and oil? These are all fossil fuels.

Fossil fuels give us energy. They come from things that were once living. They formed over thousands or millions of years.



Fossil fuels are very efficient sources of energy.

Our cars depend on them. Most countries use them to produce electricity to power homes and businesses. They are all formed from decayed organic matter.

Oil can be burned to release energy. Many people use it to heat their homes. It can be refined into other energy products such as gasoline and kerosene.

Where did oil come from? Millions of years ago, the Earth was covered with shallow seas. Rivers carried sediments into these seas. Organisms that died were also washed into the seas as part of the sediment. Scientists believe that oil formed from these decayed plants and animals. It was then trapped in the rocks.

Natural gas was formed in a similar way. Bacteria partially decomposed the organic materials that mixed with the sediment. This released methane gas as a waste product. This gas makes up part of the natural gas we use for energy.

Oil and natural gas are mostly found below Earth's surface. Wells are drilled, and the materials are pumped out. They are transported to other places for use as energy.

Coal was formed in the warm tropical swamps that were located near the equator. As plant material died, it sank to the bottom of the swamp. Layer upon layer built up. Under the great pressure, the material was compressed into coal.

Coal must be mined. Tunnels are dug into the Earth. The coal is then separated from the rocks. It can be burned to produce electricity.

So what about peat? Peat is actually the first stage of coal. But it also can be used as a fuel on its own. It is formed in a bog from decomposed organic matter. Peat is a light, spongy

material. It can be cut from the bog and dried. Some people still use peat to heat their homes. It can be burned in fireplaces like wood logs.

Fossil fuels are an efficient source of energy. However, there are drawbacks to using them. They are nonrenewable. They will not last forever. They are expensive to produce. They also cause pollution. Scientists are working to find other sources of energy that are efficient. This will reduce our dependence on oil and other fossil fuels.

Questions:

1. What were fossil fuels formed from?

2. Fossil fuels are very efficient sources of energy.

- A. true B. false

3. Oil and natural gas are obtained by:

- A. mining B. cutting it from a bog C. drilling

4. How was coal formed?

5. How is peat used in homes?

- A. to drill for oil B. to produce electricity C. for heating

6. Name two drawbacks of using fossil fuels for energy.

7. Make sentences:

a: Produce : _____

b: Energy: _____

c: Layer: _____