

Eco=Kids Explore Geothermal Energy

Simply put, geothermal energy is derived from heat produced by the core of the earth. Geothermal energy is one of the oldest renewable resources used by humans. Find out how experts are working to fine tune the process and make geothermal power plants more affordable and useful across the country. Hosts Katrina and Christian learn about how geothermal energy is turned into electricity with the help of a geothermal-powered electrical turbine. They explore how geothermal energy can be used for power and then reintroduced into the earth.

Vocabulary used in this program

fossil fuels
green power
nonrenewable energy
flash
binary/two cycle
hot springs/geysers
reservoirs
geologists

Questions

1. What are the positives for using geothermal energy? What are the drawbacks?
2. How do geologists determine if an area has geothermal energy (they test by drilling a narrow well)
3. There are three types of geothermal plants. Name them and how they work. (dry steam, flash, binary/two cycle)

For more information to help understand geothermal energy:

EIA Kids Page: Geothermal Energy

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/energyfacts/sources/renewable/geothermal.html>

NREL: Geothermal Energy Basics

http://www.nrel.gov/learning/re_geothermal.html

U.S. Dept. of Energy: Geothermal Energy

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/education/lessonplans/topic.cfm/topic_id=5