

Eco=Kids Explore Hybrid Cars

This program begins with a short history of the hybrid automobile. The first hybrid car was introduced in 1905. It had two distinct power sources working together to make it run: gas and electrical power. The benefit of the hybrid is that instead of running on gas for an entire trip, it uses non-polluting electric power when possible. By using less gas, hybrid cars help cut pollution and helps save drivers money at the gas pump. Hosts Christian and Katrina help viewers get a close-up look at the inner workings of a hybrid vehicle.

Vocabulary used in this program

hybrid

ICE (internal combustion energy)

Fossil fuels

Questions

1. What are two types of hybrid cars? (parallel, series)
2. How does a computer help conserve gas and use the electrical battery to power a car? (the computer determines when the car can use electrical energy and when it needs gas-powered energy.)
3. The hybrid car is best used in an urban setting. Why?

For more information to help understand hybrid cars:

Lesson Plan: Hybrid Automobiles

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/science/hybrid_cars.html

Teach Engineering Resources for K-12

http://teachengineering.org/view_activity.php?url=http://www.teachengineering.org/collection/cub_/activities/cub_intro/cub_intro_lesson02_activity1.xml

How Stuff Works: How Hybrid Cars Work

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/hybrid-car.htm>