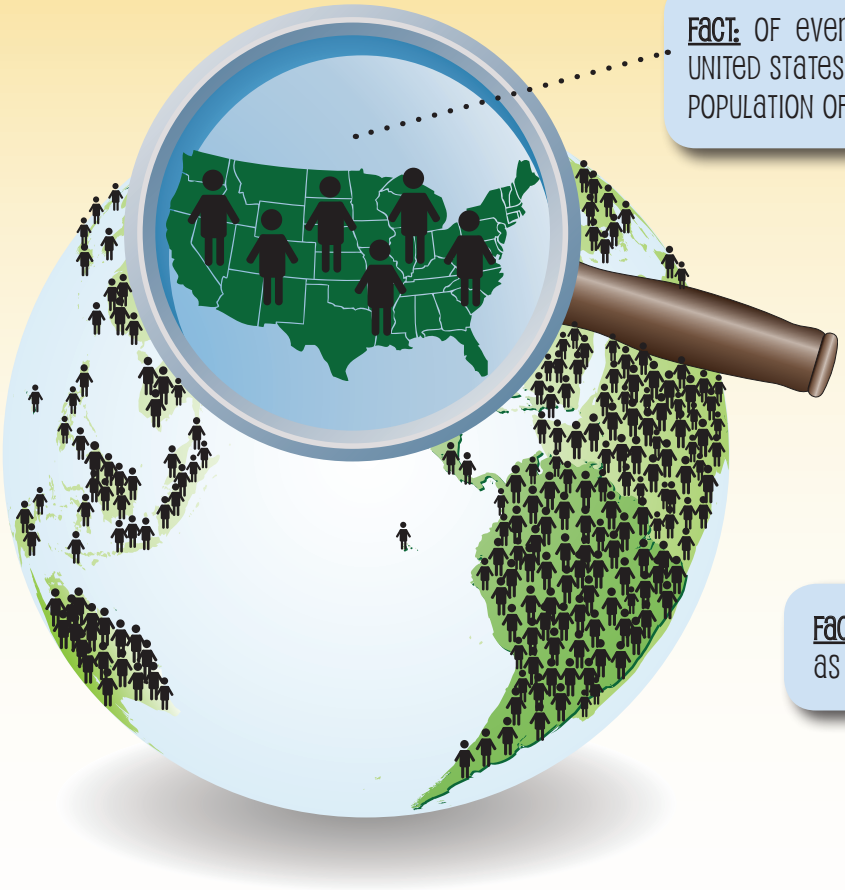
solar park facts for kids!

sun and sun energy facts!



Fact: of every 100 people in the world, six live in the United States. Even though Americans are only 6% of the population of the world, they use 30% of the energy.

Fact: each American uses twice as much energy as the average person living in England.

Fact: The sun is called a **renewable resource.** Unlike coal and wood, which are **natural resources**, the sun is always there and does not have to be mined or cut down in order to make energy. The energy we collect from the sun does not make it any less bright or warm.

Fact: Collecting solar power does not produce air pollution, hazardous waste or noise pollution. Solar power does not contribute to global warming. No greenhouse gases are emitted as a part of the solar energy process.

Fact: The sun is the closest star to earth – about 93 million miles away.

Fact: The earth only receives about two billionths of the sun's total energy, but that is still much more than we need or could use.

Fact: The sun is 5 billion years old and is expected to continue burning for another 5 billion years.

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energy questions!

When you turn on a light switch in your home, do you ever think about where the energy to power that light comes from?

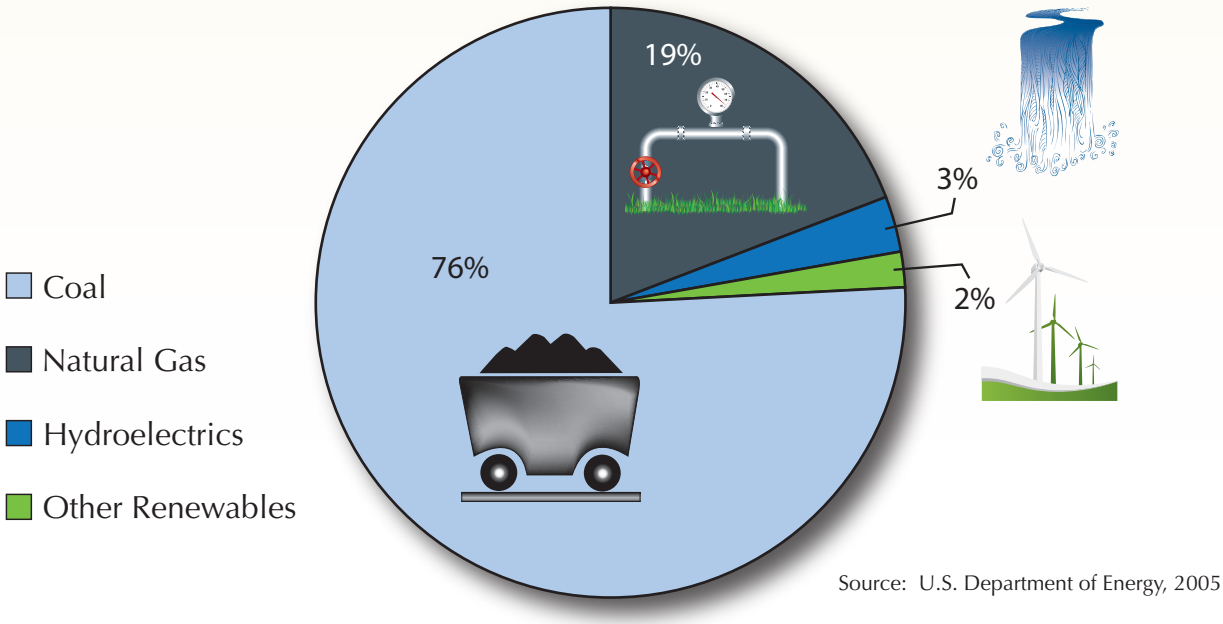
Q: Coloradans get their energy from a variety of sources. Do you know which ones?

a. Burning coal
b. Oil
c. Nuclear power
d. Hydro (water) power
e. Wind power
f. Solar power
g. All of the above

A: If you guessed "g," all of the above, you're correct!

Q: Do you know which of the energy sources listed above is used the most in Colorado?

A: Coal



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, 2005

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solar definitions!

Sustainable energy resource – a resource that can be used for energy so that it is not depleted or permanently damaged such as wind or sun.

Natural resource – a resource used for energy that cannot be replaced or takes a considerable amount of time to be replaced such as coal or wood.

Global warming – an increase in the earth's temperatures widely predicted to occur due to an increase in the greenhouse effect, resulting especially from pollution.

Carbon footprint – a measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of green house gases produced. Measured in units of carbon dioxide.

questions for you!

How can you and your family reduce your carbon footprint on the earth?

Energy is not stored, but produced "on demand" meaning that when you turn off an energy-consuming item, you are actually causing a power plant to produce less energy!

Check out the ideas below:

1. Have your family use power strips so items that use energy while they're not in use, like televisions, stereos and computers, can be turned off completely with the flip of a switch.
2. Reuse grocery bags or ask your family to use fabric bags when shopping
3. Use washable and reusable containers to take your lunch to school instead of plastic or paper bags.
4. Check your bulbs! Does your family use compact fluorescent light bulbs in your home? They last up to 10 times longer and save 75% more energy than a regular light bulb.

What are some other things you and your family do at home to help reduce the amount of energy you use?

What are some other ideas you have?

What are some ideas you have for other kinds of sustainable energy?