Increasing Achievement for Schools, Teachers, & Students
The Power of Wind

Do you know how to make energy from wind? It’s pretty easy to do, and it can save lots of money while making power. People all over the world can use it, but it does take some work to set up these so-called “wind farms.”

What is a wind farm? It is a site where energy is made from wind. First, the wind farm has to be set up where there is wind. Scientists all over the world have picked out a lot of sites where the wind blows most of the year. These sites are the best places to put wind farms.

It may seem funny to call these sites “wind farms” because no one grows wind, but the people who will run the farms will take care of the windmills that make energy from the wind. These windmills will not look like normal windmills. They will be tall, thin poles with fan blades on them.

The fan blades will turn when the wind blows. The faster they turn, the more energy they will produce. The energy is sent from the blades by power lines. These lines are hooked to lines from other wind farms. All the power lines go to sub-stations that produce electricity. These sub-stations send the power to homes so they can have electric lights and other kinds of power.

The wind does not blow all of the time, so wind farms would have to be connected in groups by power lines. There should be eight or more farms in a group. Having groups of wind farms would make sure there is always wind energy to be used.

The good thing about wind energy is it does not pollute the air. It also does not come from a mine in the ground, so there is no digging needed. The windmills do not put out any smoke, and they do not cost much money to set up and run. This means that wind power is cleaner and cheaper than other kinds of power.

More than one-third of the United States could use energy from wind power. That is because the United States has many states on or near water. The wind blowing from the ocean reaches many states. This wind could
produce energy for electricity in these states. The energy could also be sent to nearby states.

Wind energy is a good, safe bet for the future. There are some wind farms in use right now. Others are planned for the near future. Maybe one day your house will be powered by the wind!

1. This passage is mostly about:
   A. using fan blades to stay cool
   B. using fan blades to stay warm
   C. using energy from the wind
   D. using windmills to make bread

2. Which detail tells you about sub-stations?
   A. They produce electricity.
   B. They are small windmills.
   C. They sell gas.
   D. They sell groceries.

3. When using wind energy, what is the first thing to do?
   A. hook-up eight wind farms
   B. build a wind farm where there is wind
   C. build power plants
   D. have a story written for the newspaper

4. What is the difference between wind farms and other farms?
   A. Wind farms don’t “grow” anything, but other farms usually do.
   B. Wind farms grow windmills, but other farms do not.
   C. There is no difference between them.
   D. Wind farms and farms that grow tomatoes are just alike.
5. What causes the fan blades to turn on windmills?
   A. electricity
   B. water
   C. wind
   D. dirt

6. What do you think will happen to wind energy in the future?
   A. More wind farms will be built.
   B. No one will use wind energy.
   C. Only states that are NOT near water will use it.
   D. We will have to buy energy from Canada.

7. What can you conclude about wind energy from this passage?
   A. It pollutes the air.
   B. It is good and safe.
   C. It uses too much water.
   D. It makes people sick.

8. The passage reads, “A wind farm is a site...” What does the word site mean?
   A. a person
   B. a vision
   C. a place
   D. an animal

9. Why did the author write the second paragraph?
   A. to describe a wind farm
   B. to explain what scientists are doing
   C. to describe windmills
   D. to describe oceans
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10. Which is the BEST summary of this passage?
   A. Water produces more energy than wind.
   B. Coal produces more energy than wind.
   C. Wind produces good, clean energy.
   D. Wind cannot produce energy.

11. Which is the BEST place to find out more about windmills?
   A. in a book about oceans
   B. in the "W" encyclopedia
   C. in a book of maps
   D. in a spelling textbook

12. What is another good title for this passage?
   A. How Energy Produces Gas for Cars
   B. How Wind Energy Produces Electricity
   C. How to Run a Farm
   D. A Trip to the Zoo

13. Which detail explains why wind energy doesn’t harm the air?
   A. It is dug up from mines.
   B. It doesn’t blow very hard.
   C. It doesn’t put out smoke.
   D. all of the above

14. What happens after the fan blades produce energy?
   A. They send out energy to sub-stations.
   B. They send energy to the water around them.
   C. They send energy into the wind.
   D. The windmills do not produce energy.
Read the following selection. Then answer questions 15 through 28.

What is an Eclipse?

The word “eclipse” means “to hide from view.” We often use the word eclipse to talk about the sun and moon. We say there will be an “eclipse of the sun,” which is called a solar eclipse.

That happens when the moon gets between the Earth and the sun. The moon moves slowly and covers up the sun a little at a time. When the sun is all covered, it looks like a black hole in the sky. That is because the moon is in front of it. The moon hides the sun from the view of the Earth. Then the moon moves away, and the sun comes slowly all the way back into view. At that time, the solar eclipse is over.

When an eclipse happens, people all around the world watch. Some of them can see it in person, but some of them have to watch it happen on TV or on the Internet. Scientists can watch through telescopes with special filters.

Anyone who watches a solar eclipse in person must not look at the sun without special glasses. The sun is too bright, even when most of it is eclipsed. Staring at a solar eclipse can hurt your eyes and even blind you.

Another type of eclipse is a lunar eclipse. This is an eclipse of the moon. A lunar eclipse can only happen when the moon is full. When we say there is a “full moon,” we mean the entire moon has light on it. The moon does not make its own light. It depends on the sun for light.

Sometimes the moon does not get any light from the sun. When that happens, we don’t see the moon. Sometimes the moon gets a small slice of light from the sun, which we call a “crescent moon.” When the moon appears to be half lit, only one quarter of the moon is actually lit. We call that a “quarter moon.” A “full moon” is when the moon appears fully lit by the sun. It looks like a big, yellow ball in the sky.

During a lunar eclipse, the Earth comes between the full moon and the sun. The Earth’s shadow falls on the moon. This makes the moon look like
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it is going away. More and more of the moon falls in the Earth’s shadow. Soon the moon is all dark. This is called a “total” lunar eclipse. Time passes, and the Earth moves out from between the moon and the sun. A small slice of the moon shows, and then more of the moon shows. At the end of the lunar eclipse, all of the moon is visible, and the eclipse is over.

15. What is the main topic of the first paragraph?
   A. the meaning of “solar”
   B. the meaning of “eclipse”
   C. a description of the sun
   D. a description of the moon

16. What happens in a solar eclipse?
   A. The sun makes power for electricity.
   B. The sun moves between the Earth and the moon.
   C. The moon moves between the Earth and the sun.
   D. Earth disappears.

17. What happens after people stare at a solar eclipse without protecting their eyes?
   A. They won’t remember what they saw.
   B. They can go blind.
   C. Nothing can happen.
   D. They can see a full moon.

18. How is the moon different from the sun?
   A. The moon makes its own light, and the sun does not.
   B. The sun makes its own light, and the moon does not.
   C. The sun is seen from Earth, and the moon is not.
   D. The moon is visible during the day, and the sun is visible at night.

19. What causes ANY kind of an eclipse?
   A. One thing hides another thing from view.
   B. The sun shines less brightly.
   C. The moon shines less brightly.
   D. The Earth stops moving.
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20. What can you tell about solar and lunar eclipses from this passage?
   A. Both can hurt your eyes.
   B. Both hide the Earth.
   C. Both happen when something is out of sight.
   D. You need to stay up late in order to see both types of eclipses.

21. What can you conclude about the moon?
   A. Sometimes only part of it is visible.
   B. It moves around the sun.
   C. It depends on the Earth for light.
   D. It heats the Earth.

22. Based on its use in this passage, what is the meaning of the word 
    shadow?
   A. shade
   B. light
   C. under
   D. over

23. Which is more important to the author of this passage?
   A. entertaining the reader
   B. scaring the reader
   C. educating the reader
   D. boring the reader

24. What is the BEST summary of this passage?
   A. Eclipses can happen to both the sun and the moon.
   B. All eclipses depend on the Earth to cast a shadow.
   C. All eclipses happen only to the sun.
   D. All eclipses happen only to the moon.
25. Where would you look for a history of telescopes?
   A. in an index
   B. in the 'T' encyclopedia
   C. in a thesaurus
   D. at the drug store

26. How are the sun and the moon alike?
   A. They don’t have eclipses.
   B. They both give off their own light.
   C. They both have eclipses.
   D. They are the same size.

27. What causes a lunar eclipse?
   A. The sun moves between the Earth and the moon.
   B. The moon moves between the Earth and the sun.
   C. The Earth moves between the moon and the sun.
   D. all of the above

28. What can you infer about a quarter moon from this passage?
   A. It shines more brightly than a crescent moon.
   B. It doesn’t shine as brightly as a half moon.
   C. It doesn’t shine at all.
   D. It looks the same as a full moon.
School Buses and School Bus Drivers

Do you ride a bus to school? Lots of kids ride school buses. I ride a school bus, and my mom is a school bus driver. Some kids live far away from school, and they ride a bus. Some kids live closer to school, and they ride a bus, too. School buses take kids to grade school and middle school and high school. School buses are everywhere.

There are lots of public schools, but there are lots of private schools, too. Most public schools have school buses. Private schools have buses, too, but they don’t have as many buses as public schools. Even though most public schools have lots of buses, sometimes they have to use buses on more than one run.

My mom says it’s called a “run” when a bus driver takes kids to school or takes them home from school. Most school systems use their buses on more than one run to keep from buying so many buses. That means drivers make two runs in the morning and two runs in the afternoon. My mom does that.

My mom says school buses cost a lot of money to buy, and it costs a lot to keep them going. Plus, their tires cost a lot of money, too. Some school systems keep their school buses in garages. Other school systems let the school bus drivers take the buses home after work everyday.

School bus drivers have to take special driving tests. Then they get a license that allows them to drive buses. They have to take driver-training classes from the school system. They also have to take first-aid classes and classes about how to deal with the kids who ride their buses. My mom did all that. I said it seemed like a lot of work, but she said the work was worth it because she likes driving a school bus!

29. This passage is mostly about:
   A. school buses
   B. private schools
   C. public schools
   D. teachers
30. When do the drivers pick-up kids at school?
   A. They don’t pick them up at school.
   B. They pick them up in the morning before school starts.
   C. They pick them up in the afternoon after school is out.
   D. They pick them up at recess.

31. What happened before the author’s mother could drive a school bus?
   A. She had to buy a bus.
   B. She had to get a special license.
   C. She had to wash all of the buses.
   D. She had to work in the cafeteria.

32. How is a private school like a public school?
   A. They both use school buses.
   B. Private schools are next door to public schools.
   C. Every town in America has private schools and public schools.
   D. all of the above

33. One reason buses make two runs is:
   A. so bus drivers can get more practice
   B. so kids can ride whichever bus they want
   C. so school systems don’t have to buy so many buses
   D. so the school systems don’t have to buy as much gas

34. What can you tell from the passage about the author’s mother?
   A. She doesn’t like the kids on her bus.
   B. She likes to drive a school bus.
   C. She drives a private school bus.
   D. She gets to sleep late every morning.
35. What can you conclude from the first paragraph?
   A. Not many school buses are used.
   B. There are a lot of school buses.
   C. A lot of people walk to school.
   D. none of the above

36. What does training mean?
   A. lessons
   B. books
   C. working with kids
   D. taking a lunch break

37. Why did the author write the fourth paragraph?
   A. to explain the kinds of tires that buses use
   B. to explain that it costs a lot to buy and take care of buses
   C. to explain how some school systems have big parking lots
   D. to explain the training bus drivers have to have

38. Which is the BEST summary of this passage?
   A. Being a school bus driver is dull.
   B. Being a school bus driver is boring.
   C. Being a school bus driver is no fun.
   D. none of the above

39. Between which two words would you find the word tires in a dictionary?
   A. trans and trowel
   B. then and there
   C. tier and title
   D. top and tot
40. From this passage you can tell:
   A. school bus drivers get a lot of training
   B. school bus drivers do not get any training
   C. school bus drivers do not need licenses
   D. school bus drivers do not need to know how to drive

41. The passage reads that school buses are “everywhere.” What does *everywhere* mean?
   A. They are close to the school.
   B. There are not lots of them.
   C. They are all over the place.
   D. They are very small.

42. What is a plot in a story?
   A. a bad person’s character
   B. a plan the author follows
   C. the beginning of the story
   D. the end of the story

43. What is the BEST summary of the first paragraph?
   A. A lot of kids ride school buses.
   B. Only kids who go to private schools ride school buses.
   C. Only kids who go to public schools ride school buses.
   D. There are more bus drivers than there are students.

44. A new school bus driver needs a map of the area. Where would be the best place for the driver to find a map?
   A. in an atlas
   B. in a thesaurus
   C. in an index
   D. in a dictionary

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