

## 23. “Protecting the Environment Part III”

by Core Knowledge Staff

Have you ever experienced a power outage? When the power goes out, your lights and everything else that runs on electricity cannot work. Power outages can be caused when too many people use energy at the same time. They are an inconvenience, but you know that the power will soon come on. Then you will be able to watch television and use the computer once again. How can you conserve, or save, energy? Be sure to turn off lights and appliances when you aren't using them. Close windows and doors when the heat or air conditioner is running. In the winter, turn the heat down and add an extra layer of clothing to stay warm. In the summer, minimize the use of air conditioning by using a fan. Carpool or ride on public transportation, like a bus or train, to cut down on using extra fuel in a personal car.

Scientists are working hard to develop new ways of supplying energy to our households, schools, and businesses. In the future, they hope to rely less on fossil fuels by gathering energy from the sun and the wind. Have you ever passed a row of windmills or seen solar panels on rooftops? There are already many places on Earth that rely on wind and solar energy. These are two forms of energy that hold great hope for the future.

There are so many things that you can do to help the earth right in your own home. I am sure that you have heard and seen the words *reduce*, *reuse*, and *recycle*. To reduce means to make something smaller. So, if you reduce the amount of trash that you throw away, you are throwing away less. What can you do with some of the trash that you are used to throwing in the garbage? You can reuse it or recycle it. For example, if you get a birthday present wrapped in beautiful paper, you can remove it carefully from the package and use it again to wrap another gift. Instead of using paper napkins at meals, use cloth napkins; wash them and use them over and over again. When you draw on one side of a piece of paper, turn it over and use the other side for another drawing. When you use

fewer paper products, fewer trees will need to be cut down. Instead of using plastic bags at the grocery store, take your own cloth bags and reuse them every time you shop. When you use less plastic, you use fewer nonrenewable resources. And, while you are shopping, look at the labels on paper products, laundry detergents, and dish soaps. Choose products that are “green,” “eco-friendly,” and nontoxic—products that are safe for the environment.

**Word Count: 455**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTIONS

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehension Questions

### “Protecting the Environment Part III”

*Assess each student’s comprehension of the selection by asking him or her to respond orally to the following questions one on one with you:*

1. **Literal** How can you conserve energy and save fuel?
  - » turn off lights and appliances when you aren’t using them; close windows and doors when the heat or air conditioner is running; in the winter turn the heat down and add an extra layer of clothing to stay warm; in the summer minimize the use of air conditioning by using a fan; carpool or ride public transportation to cut down on using extra fuel in a personal car
2. **Literal** What are you doing if you reduce the amount of trash you throw away?
  - » You are throwing away less.
3. **Evaluative** How does reusing or recycling help the environment?
  - » If you reuse or recycle something, you are using it again and thus not throwing it away, making less trash. Less trash thrown away due to reusing and recycling means you need fewer new things, which means fewer natural resources are needed to make new things.