

Catch the Breeze

Wind can help fly a kite, power a sailboat or spread seeds. Around the world, wind has also become an increasingly popular and inexpensive source of energy that is **converted**¹ into electricity.



Gareth Stevens

A row of windmills.

At the National Wind Technology Center in Colorado, scientists are working to advance wind-power technology. Wind is often considered an environmentally friendly source of power. Wind doesn't pollute the environment and is a renewable source of energy that can't be used up like **fossil fuels**, such as coal, oil, and natural gas.

Harnessing² power from wind is nothing new. Some of the first windmills were used in Europe more than 5,000 years ago. Today, modern windmills, called **turbines**, resemble airplane propellers and are grouped together in wind farms.

Despite the benefits, wind power is far from perfect. Opponents of wind farms say the biggest problem is **unreliability**—when the wind doesn't blow, there is no power. They also argue that wind turbines can be an eyesore and threaten birds and other wildlife that fly into the blades.

Currently, 27 states have wind farms. Those turbines provide enough power for more than a million homes.

¹ **convert:** to change from one form to another

² **harness:** utilize; put to work

Question Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

“Catch the Breeze” Questions

- _____ 1. The main idea of this passage is
- a. wind power is an excellent resource.
 - b. wind power is being used as a source of energy.
 - c. wind power is environmentally friendly.
 - d. people have been using wind power for many years.
- _____ 2. Which of the following does *not* support the main idea?
- a. Scientists are trying to advance wind power technology.
 - b. Right now, in the United States, wind power gives electricity to a million homes.
 - c. Wind helps to fly kites and spread seeds.
 - d. Wind power is a renewable resource.
- _____ 3. The author seems to
- a. support the use of wind power.
 - b. be against the use of wind power.
 - c. be trying to confuse the reader about wind power.
 - d. give both sides of the argument.
- _____ 4. Which of the following would *not* be a good title for this passage?
- a. Using Wind Power
 - b. Harnessing the Wind
 - c. A Big Risk To Birds
 - d. Power Up
- _____ 5. The author writes that "wind power is far from perfect". Is this a fact or opinion? Explain.

Question Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

“Catch the Breeze” Answer Sheet

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 - Power Up
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Answers will vary. That statement is an opinion. Though most people would agree with that statement, it is an opinion because the idea of the perfection of wind power changes from person to person.

Suggested Additional Vocabulary: inexpensive, renewable, propelled, opponent