

ECO

WRITE

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

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**Stimulus Cards To Build Writing Skills
And Environmental Awareness**

ECO WRITE cards contain images, information and activities to increase awareness of global and environmental issues for students through writing in a variety of genres. The focus is on individual and small group work with discussion at whole class level, using the CD-ROM supplied in this pack to facilitate projection on a whiteboard.

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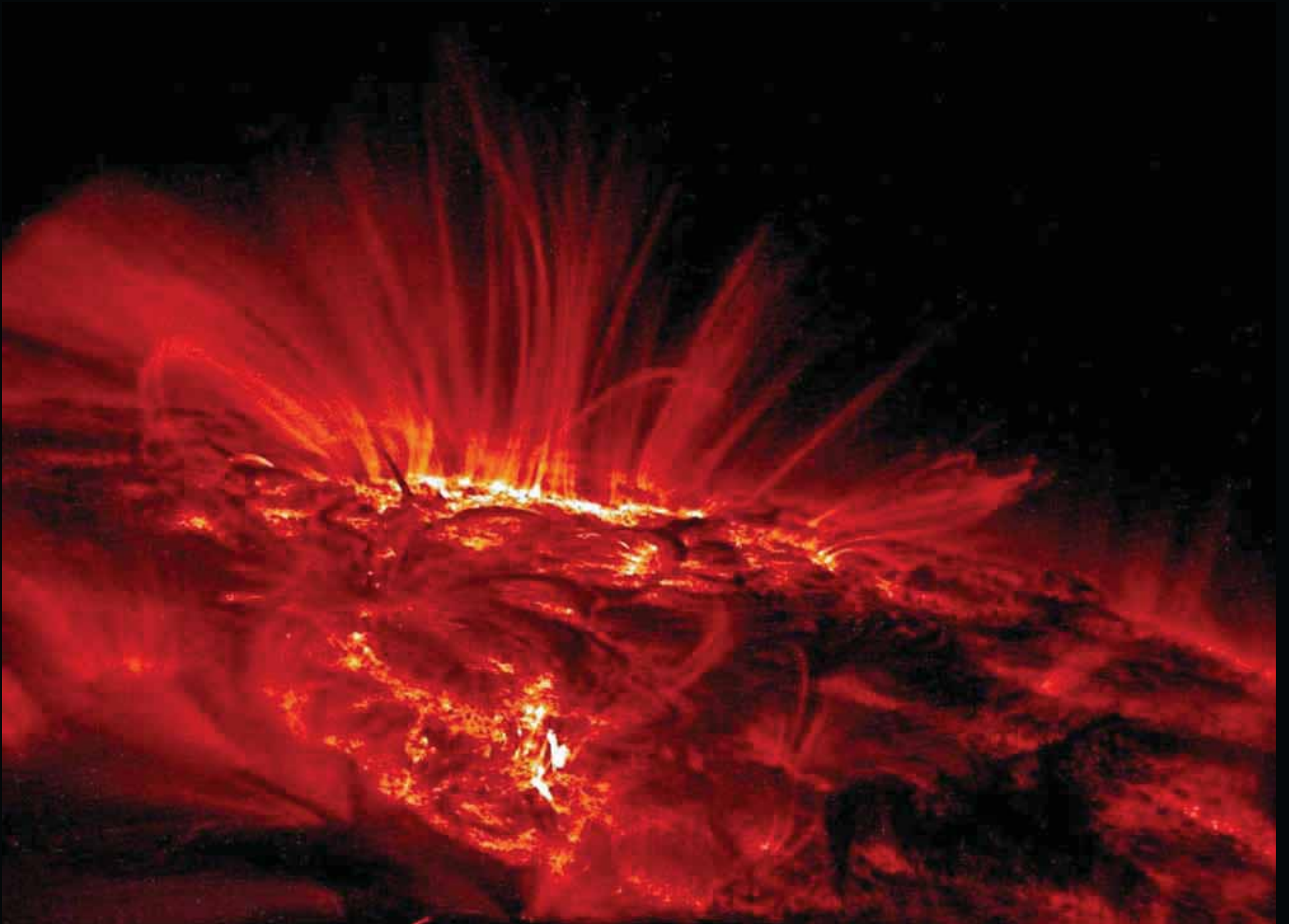
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SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Where Does Energy Come From?

What's the issue?

- To understand that energy comes from using power stored in fossil fuels such as wood, coal, oil and natural gas, or comes from active sources such as water, wind, sea and the sun.
- To understand that some sources of energy are finite, but others such as water, wind, sea and the sun are renewable and will last for ever.

What you need to know ...

Almost all energy, ultimately, comes from the sun. Solar energy is direct from the sun. Fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal come from decayed plant matter which grew originally because of sunlight.

Hydro power depends on the sun's energy to drive the water cycle. In most cases we are using energy from the sun which has become stored in another form. So by burning oil we are using up solar energy which shone on the earth over 250 million years ago.

Description

1. Look at the colours in the picture. Pick three of them. List other words (synonyms) that give a similar impression of the colour, e.g. red, crimson. Describe the colours of the sun using a variety of these adjectives.
2. Describe what is happening in the picture in terms of movement. Think of vivid verbs to use, e.g. bubbling, hopping, flinging. Think of onomatopoeic (sound) words that you could use to describe the scene.

Let's plan it ...

- Description must help your reader imagine what you are describing.
- You must use detail when describing.
- Use a chart to help collect words and make these into sentences: e.g. noun, verb, adverb.
- Use your senses. Collect together words and ideas based on: taste, hearing, touch, smell, what you see.
- Always think of: shape, size, colour, texture when describing something. List words under these four headings.



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

What Is Sustainable Energy?

What's the issue?

- Sustainable energy is renewable energy: it will never run out.
- 'Renewable' is not a simple term. Some people think that gas is renewable because every time they want more they just turn on a tap.
- Finite energy sources will run out one day. For some energy sources such as oil and natural gas, that could effectively be in our life time.

What you need to know ...

The sun is the ultimate source of all our energy, although the process of converting and storing and releasing that energy into a fuel we recognise and can use is very complex for most people.

Wind generated energy is a good way of supplying energy to remote places and the land beneath windmills can still be used for farming. Newer wind farms are often found offshore. The use of wind to generate power produces no waste or greenhouse gas.

Biography

1. Find out about the lives of famous sailors in the past who travelled on sail boats. What made them famous? How did they become sailors or explorers? Write the first chapter of one their biographies.
2. Sail boats have certain features invented by famous people, e.g. the plimsoll line. Investigate what this is and how Samuel Plimsoll invented something very important. Write his life story and the struggles he faced to change things.

Let's plan it ...

- Do some research! Who do you want to write about? Why?
- In your first paragraph talk about: who, what, when and where?
- Each paragraph should happen in the order of the person's life.
- Make it clear what makes this person so special.
- Do you need pictures?
- In your conclusion, think about what has happened or what might be the future.
- Use the past tense, third person.
- Use quotations: what do others think?