DoodleBeez Worksheets

Grade 5 | Reading

Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Power of the Wind: Comprehension

Nonfiction: Science · about 250 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

The Power of the Wind

For thousands of years, people have used the wind to do work. Sailboats crossed oceans powered only by wind. In the Netherlands and other places, windmills pumped water and ground grain into flour. Today, people use the wind for a different job: making electricity.

A modern wind turbine looks like a giant pinwheel. Many stand taller than a 30-story building, and some have blades longer than a football field is wide. When the wind blows, it pushes the blades and makes them spin. The spinning blades turn a shaft connected to a generator inside the turbine. The generator changes the motion into electricity, which travels through power lines to homes and businesses.

Wind is a renewable energy source, which means it will not run out. Coal, oil, and natural gas are nonrenewable. They took millions of years to form, and once they are used, they are gone. Burning them also releases carbon dioxide and other pollution into the air. Wind turbines produce electricity without burning anything.

Wind power does have challenges. The wind does not always blow, so other sources must fill in on calm days. Some people dislike how turbines look or sound. Turbines can also be dangerous to birds and bats, so engineers study where to place them and how to make them safer.

Many wind farms are built in open, windy places, such as the Great Plains of Texas, Iowa, and Oklahoma. Some are built offshore in the ocean, where winds are often stronger and steadier.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?

   A. why the Great Plains are windy B. the history of sailboats

   C. how wind is used to make electricity and its benefits and challenges D. how to build a pinwheel

2. **Detail:** What does the generator do?

   A. makes the wind blow B. changes the motion into electricity C. spins the blades D. stores water

3. **Vocabulary:** Renewable means...

   A. made from coal B. very old C. very expensive D. will not run out

4. **Detail:** What is one challenge of wind power?

   A. The wind does not always blow. B. It makes the air dirty. C. It uses too much water. D. It burns too much coal.

5. **Detail:** Why are some wind farms built offshore?

   A. Winds are often stronger and steadier there. B. It is cheaper to build on water. C. There are no birds.

   D. People live there.

6. **Inference:** Why is wind better for the air than burning coal?

ANSWER KEY

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6. **Inference:** Why is wind better for the air than burning coal?
   Wind turbines make electricity without burning anything or releasing pollution.