

Impact of Solar Power: A classroom activity about the impact of solar power on people's lives.

What solar power means to people in India.

Read the following statements and then do the activity on the next page.



We used to have power cuts all the time and there was no backup power. We had to use kerosene lamps and candles instead which made me cough and sometimes caused fires. Now we can use solar power instead for our backup power which is much safer and allows me to study for school when it is dark.

There is no electric connection to our shop and we were fed up of kerosene and gas lamps as they are difficult to maintain. Using solar-powered lights has boosted our business as everyone is attracted to our shop, especially at night time.



Our street lights used to fail due to falling trees and there was a risk of electric shock. It was very dangerous for women to walk around in the dark. Now our street lights are solar-powered, they never fail and we can walk without fear.


Now we have solar power our hospital has hot, clean water 24 hours a day and we can store medicines that need to be kept in the fridge. We can give a much better and cheaper service to our patients.



Now I have reliable electricity from my solar panels, I can use my sewing machine at night as well as during the day. This means I can make more clothes and sell them. The extra money means I can buy food for my children.

People who have unreliable or no access to electricity find their lives changed for the better if they do have access to reliable electricity as you can see from the statements you have just read. One of the ways of providing them with reliable electricity is for them to be able to generate electricity from renewable sources such as wind turbines or solar panels.

Each one of the following diamonds is a part of what makes solar energy special.

Cut out the diamonds below and arrange them in a pyramid  shape.

Put the **most** important feature of solar energy at the top and work your way down to the least important.

Extension:

When you've finished, think about what you would find most important for yourself.

Does the order change?

