

THE STANDARD

Energy & Fossil Fuels

"Obtain and combine information to describe that energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and their uses affect the environment."

DCI

DISCIPLINARY
CORE IDEA

ESS3.A · Natural Resources

"Energy and fuels that humans use are derived from natural sources, and their use affects the environment in multiple ways. Some resources are renewable over time, and others are not."

Every bit of energy we use starts somewhere on Earth. The gas in a car comes from oil. The power in an outlet might come from coal, wind, sun, or water behind a dam. **Here is what 4th graders connect: getting and using that energy changes the land, air, and animals.**

SEP

SCIENCE &
ENGINEERING
PRACTICE

Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

"Obtain and combine information from books and other reliable media to explain phenomena."

4th graders aren't expected to already know this. They go find it. They pull facts from a book, a kid-friendly article, or a short video, then put pieces from different sources together into one clear description. **The skill is choosing trustworthy sources and combining what they say, not just copying one page.**

CCC

CROSSCUTTING
CONCEPT

Cause and Effect

"Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change."

This is the thread that holds the whole standard together. Using an energy resource is the cause. A change to the environment is the effect. Burning coal causes dirtier air. Building a dam causes a flooded valley and lost animal homes. **4th graders practice spotting that cause-to-effect link every time.**