

Where Does Our Electricity Come From?

Electricity is usually made by spinning a generator in power stations. It is sent to your house along huge wires stretched across tall metal pylons.

Coal, Gas and Oil Power Stations

Some power stations run on coal, gas or oil. The fuel is used to create flames to produce heat. This is used to boil water to make steam. The steam is sent into a turbine (a sort of motor), which spins very quickly. This is connected to the generator, which makes electricity.

Hydro Electricity

Water running down a mountain can be used to make a turbine spin to make electricity.

Other Ways of Making Electricity

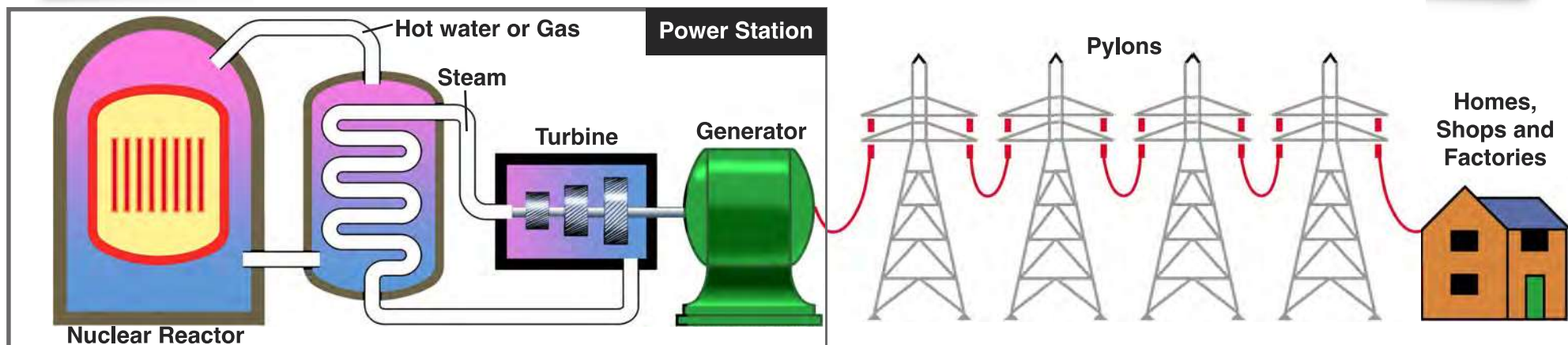
Solar panels can be used to collect energy from the sun to make a small amount of electricity. A battery uses a chemical reaction to make a small amount of electricity.

Nuclear Energy

Splitting atoms (tiny particles) in a material called Uranium produces large amounts of heat. This heat is used to make steam to power a turbine to make electricity.

Windmills

When the wind blows the blades on a windmill they spin round. If the axle is connected to a generator, electricity can be made.



Where Does Our Electricity Come From?

Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Electricity is usually made in a

1 **train** **bus** **power** **airport**

station. It travels along wires held up by

2 **pythons.** **pyramids.** **pyjamas.** **pylons.**

Coal, gas and oil are used to heat water to make steam. The steam is used to turn a

3 **wheel** **spinner** **pulley** **turbine**

which is connected to a generator. Water running down a mountain can be used to make a turbine

4 **spin.** **stop.** **start.** **settle.**

Generators are sometimes turned by a

5 **kite.** **windmill.** **handle.** **cloud.**

Energy from the sun can be collected by

6 **windmills.** **solar panels.** **waterfalls.**

Section B

1 How is electricity usually made?

2 Which fuels are used to heat water to make steam?

3 What is the steam used for?

4 What is a turbine?

5 How can water be used to make electricity?

6 What do you think happens to windmills when there is no wind?

7 Why is this a problem?

8 Do you think electricity is important? Give a reason for your answer.

Section C

Imagine the power is cut off from your house. Write about the things you could not do and how you would feel about it.