Britannica EDUCATION



EARTH HOUR

Earth Hour Inquiry Challenge

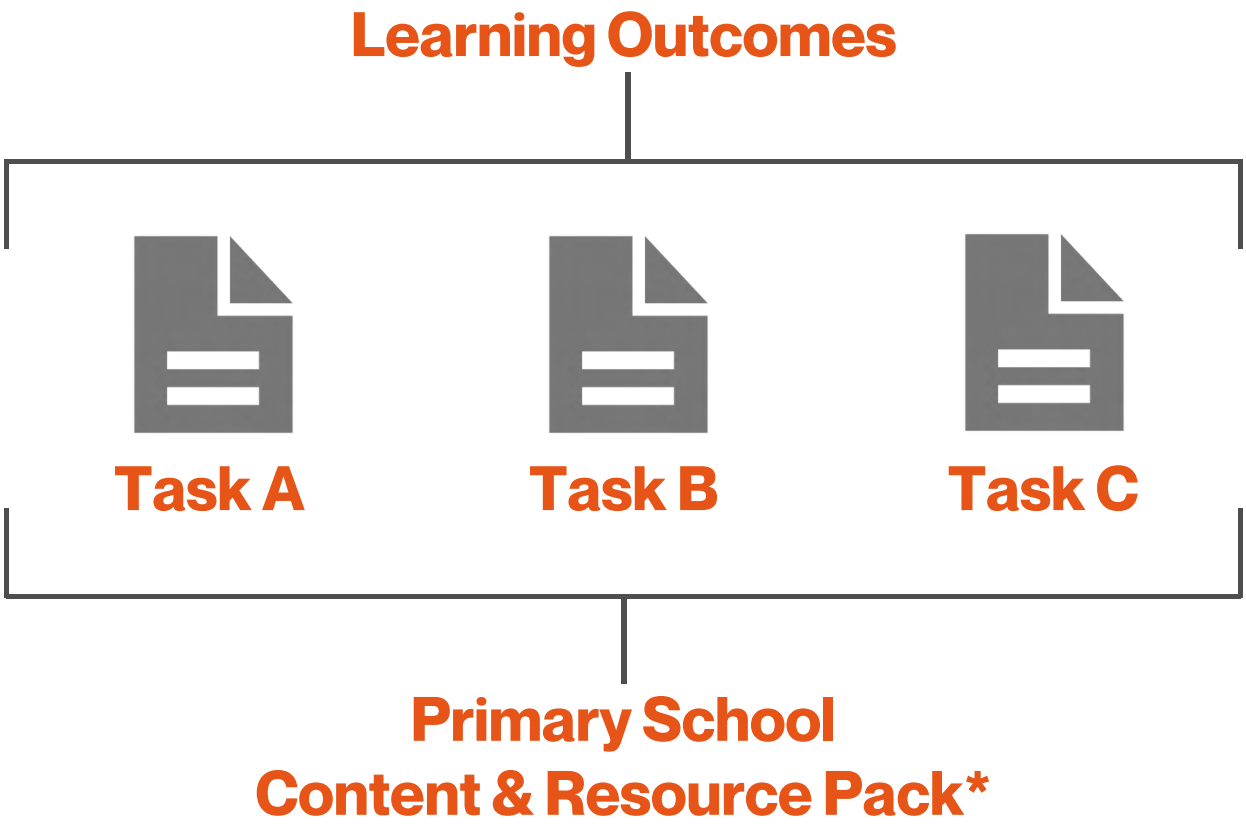
Inspiring the Next Generation of Eco-Leaders

Learning Resources and Activities aligned to the Australian **Primary School** Curriculum

Introduction

Britannica's Curriculum Team has put together this Britannica School activity bundle to support your lessons around Earth Hour Schools Day 2025. Within the bundle, you will find Britannica School content and a resource pack containing age-appropriate articles related to the occasion, as well as supporting activities and worksheets.

Here is what you will find in this thematic activity bundle:



***To use the article content and resource pack**, you will need access to Britannica School. Check to see if your school already has a subscription or start a free trial at elearn.eb.com/britannica-school/#free-trial



Image Credit: Martin_Winkler_Fotografie/pixabay

Background Information

Earth Hour Schools Day 2025 is scheduled for Friday, March 21st.
Earth Hour is an annual, global movement that encourages individuals worldwide to "Give an Hour for Earth" by dedicating **60 minutes to activities that benefit the planet.** This approach emphasises that collective small actions can lead to significant positive impacts on the environment.

Organised by WWF, the overarching focus for Earth Hour is on addressing critical environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable living. Participants are invited to engage in activities they are passionate about - be it nature walks, community clean-ups, educational sessions, or energy-saving measures - to contribute positively to the planet.

For educators and youth leaders, Earth Hour provides an opportunity to **inspire young people to become environmental stewards.** The resources in this bundle aim to make environmentalism accessible, enjoyable, and personally meaningful for the younger generation.

Earth Hour Inquiry Challenge

Activity Overview

Lights off, minds on! These Earth Hour inquiry tasks invite students to **question, explore, and take action** on the future of our planet. By connecting their daily energy use to real-world sustainability challenges, students will **think critically, solve problems, and become ambassadors for change** in their homes, schools, and communities.

Lower Primary (Ages 5-8) - Discovering the Power of Small Actions

Imagine a world without electricity! Young learners will step into a world of dim lights, deep reflection, and creative solutions. Through storytelling, role-playing, and hands-on art activities, they'll explore what happens when we turn off the lights and make small changes to help the planet.

Outcome: Foster empathy, curiosity, and responsibility for the Earth's energy use.

Upper Primary (Ages 9-12) - Investigating the Impact of Earth Hour

Why does Earth Hour matter? Through research and persuasive writing, students will discover the global impact of Earth Hour. They will compare real-world data, analyse energy-saving potential, and advocate for action in their communities.

Outcome: Develop research, analytical, and advocacy skills to promote sustainable choices.



Learning Outcomes

English

Strand: Literacy

- **Sub-strand:** Creating Texts
  - **Year 4:** Students learn to plan, draft, and publish persuasive texts containing key information and supporting details.
  - **Year 5:** Focus on using language features to show how ideas can be extended or elaborated in persuasive texts.
  - **Year 6:** Students understand how to select and use a range of language features to influence an audience.

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)

Strand: Civics and Citizenship

- **Sub-strand:** Citizenship, Diversity, and Identity
  - **Year 5:** Examine how people with shared beliefs and values work together to achieve a civic goal.
  - **Year 6:** Investigate how individuals or groups have influenced change in society.

Science

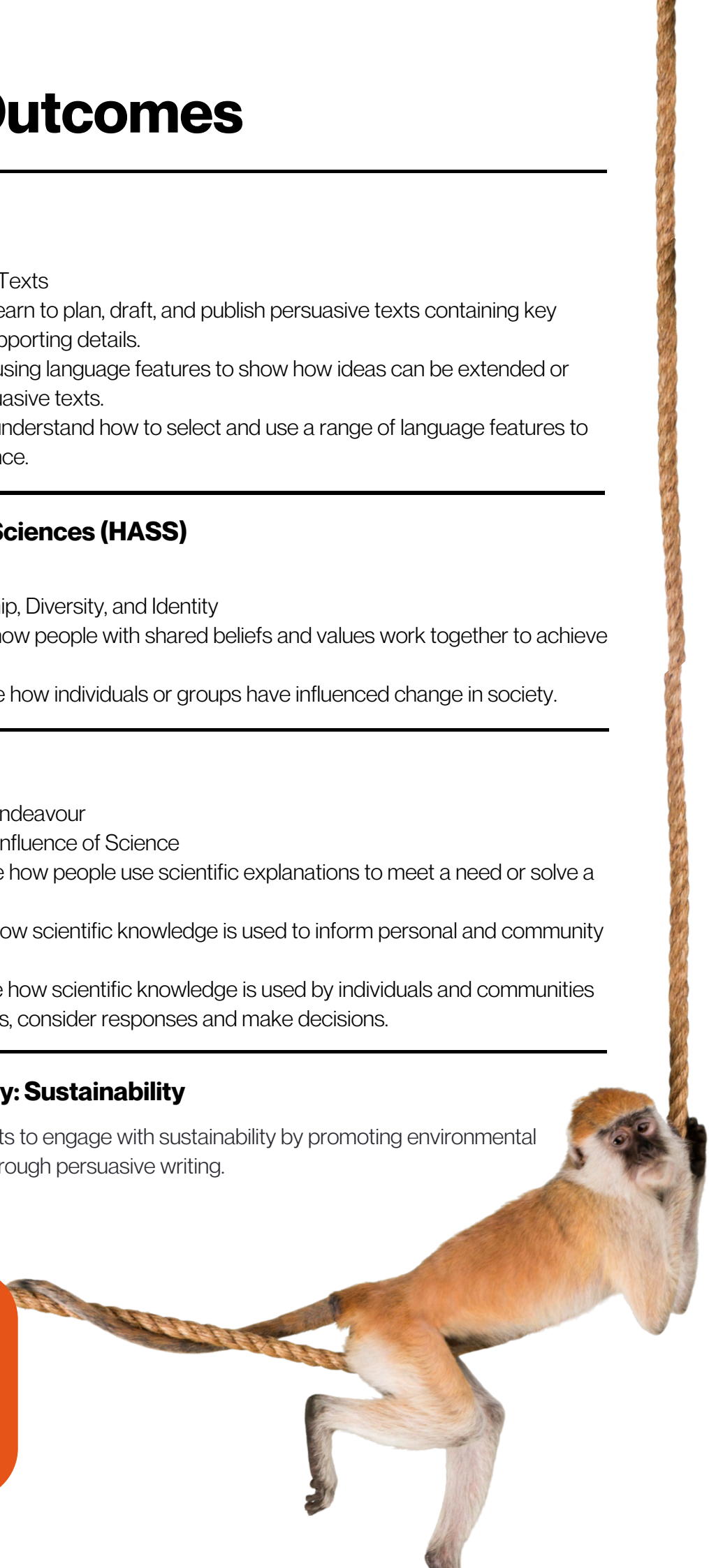
Strand: Science as a Human Endeavour

- **Sub-strand:** Use and Influence of Science
  - **Year 4:** Investigate how people use scientific explanations to meet a need or solve a problem.
  - **Year 5:** Examine how scientific knowledge is used to inform personal and community decisions.
  - **Year 6:** Investigate how scientific knowledge is used by individuals and communities to identify problems, consider responses and make decisions.

Cross-Curriculum Priority: Sustainability

The activity encourages students to engage with sustainability by promoting environmental responsibility and awareness through persuasive writing.

Aligned with **Australian Curriculum Version 9.0**



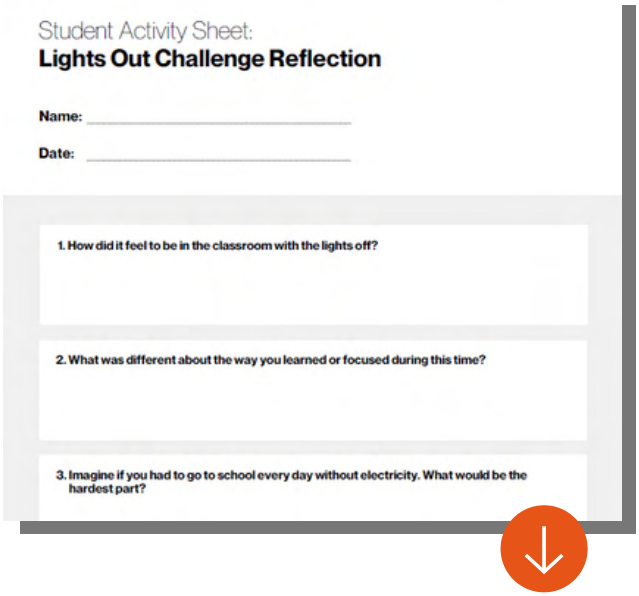
Lower Primary (Ages 5-8)

Task 1

What Happens When the Lights Go Out?

Question: What would the world be like if we used less electricity?

Activity: Conduct a "Lights Out Challenge" where students spend 10 minutes in a dim classroom and reflect on how they feel.



Student Activity Sheet:
Lights Out Challenge Reflection

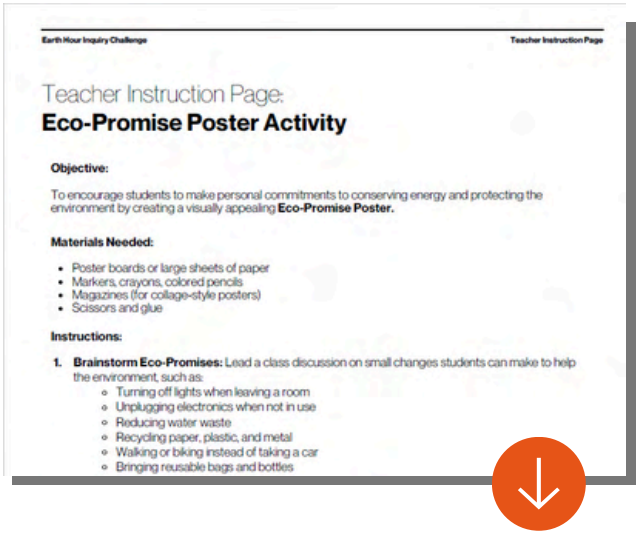
Name: _____

Date: _____

1. How did it feel to be in the classroom with the lights off?

2. What was different about the way you learned or focused during this time?

3. Imagine if you had to go to school every day without electricity. What would be the hardest part?



Earth Hour Inquiry Challenge — Teacher Instruction Page

Teacher Instruction Page:
Eco-Promise Poster Activity

Objective:

To encourage students to make personal commitments to conserving energy and protecting the environment by creating a visually appealing **Eco-Promise Poster.**

Materials Needed:

- Poster boards or large sheets of paper
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils
- Magazines (for collage-style posters)
- Scissors and glue

Instructions:

1. **Brainstorm Eco-Promises:** Lead a class discussion on small changes students can make to help the environment, such as:
   - Turning off lights when leaving a room
   - Unplugging electronics when not in use
   - Reducing water waste
   - Recycling paper, plastic, and metal
   - Walking or biking instead of taking a car
   - Bringing reusable bags and bottles

Task 2

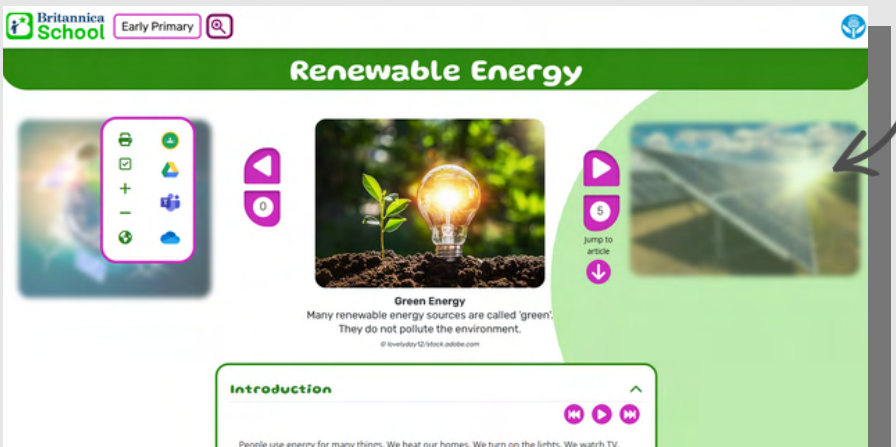
How Can I Help the Planet?

Question: What small actions can I take to help the Earth?

Activity: Create a class "Eco-Promise" poster with student pledges.

Support these lower primary activities with information from Britannica School.

Teacher Tip:
Ideal for independent research tasks, inquiry-based learning and curiosity-led discovery!



Open **Electricity in our daily lives →**

Open **Renewable energy →**

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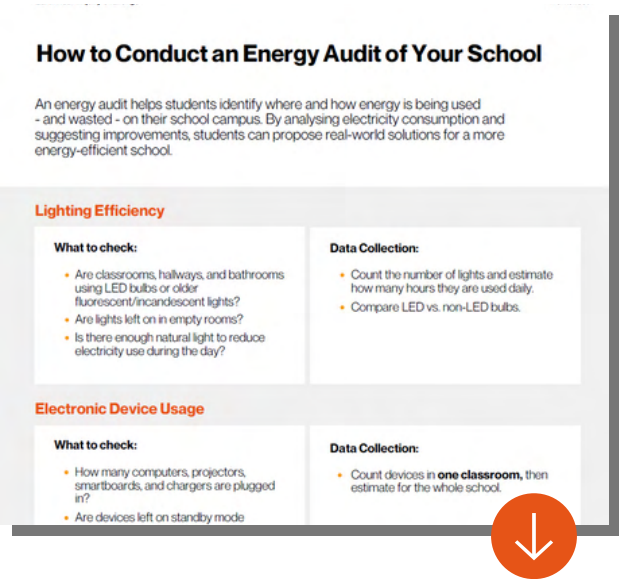
Upper Primary (Ages 9-12)

Task 1

How Can We Reduce Energy Use in Our School?

Question: What changes can our school make to be more energy-efficient?

Activity: Conduct an energy audit of the school.



How to Conduct an Energy Audit of Your School

An energy audit helps students identify where and how energy is being used - and wasted - on their school campus. By analysing electricity consumption and suggesting improvements, students can propose real-world solutions for a more energy-efficient school.

Lighting Efficiency

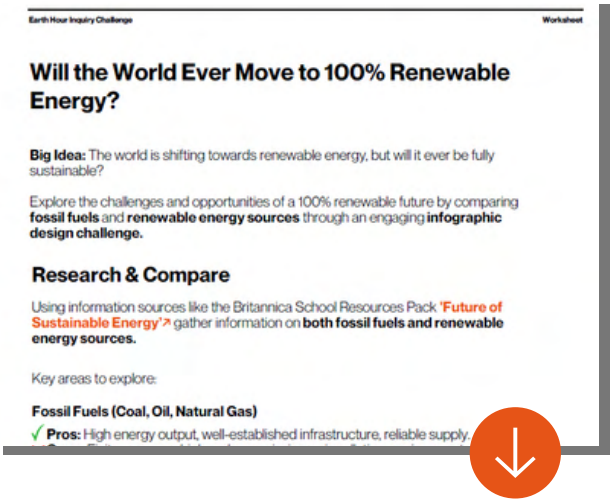
What to check:
- Are classrooms, hallways, and bathrooms using LED bulbs or older fluorescent/incandescent lights?
- Are lights left on in empty rooms?
- Is there enough natural light to reduce electricity use during the day?

Data Collection:
- Count the number of lights and estimate how many hours they are used daily.
- Compare LED vs. non-LED bulbs.

Electronic Device Usage

What to check:
- How many computers, projectors, smartboards, and chargers are plugged in?
- Are devices left on standby mode

Data Collection:
- Count devices in **one classroom**, then estimate for the whole school.



Earth Hour Inquiry Challenge — Worksheet

Will the World Ever Move to 100% Renewable Energy?

Big Idea: The world is shifting towards renewable energy, but will it ever be fully sustainable?

Explore the challenges and opportunities of a 100% renewable future by comparing **fossil fuels** and **renewable energy sources** through an engaging **infographic design challenge.**

Research & Compare

Using information sources like the Britannica School Resources Pack 'Future of Sustainable Energy' gather information on **both fossil fuels and renewable energy sources.**

Key areas to explore:

Fossil Fuels (Coal, Oil, Natural Gas)

✓ **Pros:** High energy output, well-established infrastructure, reliable supply.

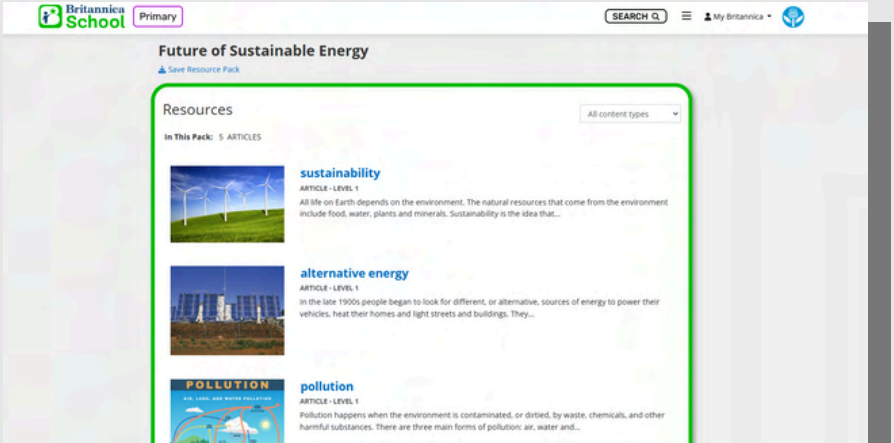
Task 2

What Is the Future of Sustainable Energy?

Question: Will the world ever move to 100% renewable energy?

Activity: Design an infographic comparing fossil fuels vs. renewables.

Support these upper primary activities with information in a Britannica School resource pack.



Britannica School — Primary — SEARCH — My Britannica

Future of Sustainable Energy

Save Resource Pack

Resources

In This Pack: 5 ARTICLES

All content types

sustainability
ARTICLE - LEVEL 1
All life on Earth depends on the environment. The natural resources that come from the environment include food, water, plants and minerals. Sustainability is the idea that...

alternative energy
ARTICLE - LEVEL 1
In the late 1900s people began to look for different, or alternative, sources of energy to power their vehicles, heat their homes and light streets and buildings. They...

pollution
ARTICLE - LEVEL 1
Pollution happens when the environment is contaminated, or dirtied, by waste, chemicals, and other harmful substances. There are three main forms of pollution: air, water and...

Open "Future of Sustainable Energy" resource pack→

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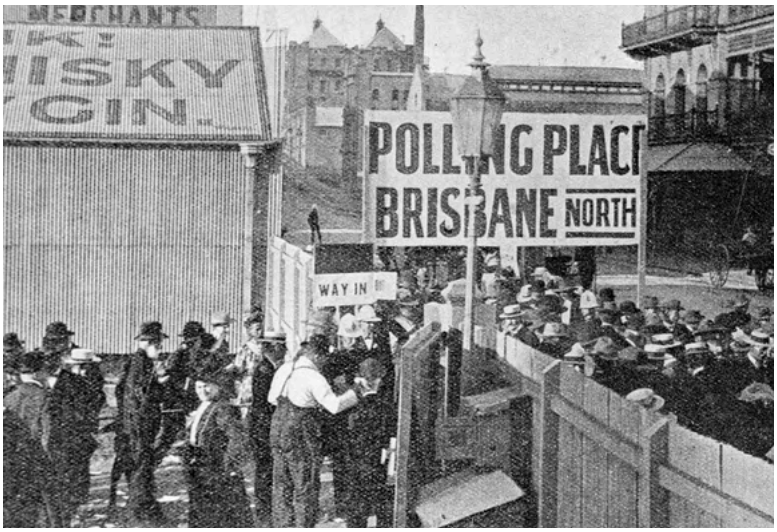
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