

NATURAL RESOURCES

Lesson Plan

Main Ideas

Lesson Plan for *Wind*
Grade 3

Objective

To help students identify and explain the main ideas in one chapter of a book.

Things Needed

- Several copies of the *Wind* book
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Divide the class into groups of three or four, assigning each group one of the book's four chapters. It's okay if several groups have the same chapter.

Activity

Have students gather in their groups, and give each group a copy of the *Wind* book. Explain that each group will read just one chapter of the book. Then, group members will work together to write a paragraph telling the chapter's main ideas. The paragraph should have six to eight sentences.

After all groups have drafted a paragraph, come back together as a class. Starting with Chapter I, invite each group to share its paragraph with the rest of the class. Use the following sample answers as a guide:

Chapter I ("Wind at Work")

Wind is moving air. When the sun shines, it warms some of Earth's air. Warm air has lower air pressure. As a result, it rises. Cooler air has higher pressure. As a result, it falls. It fills the space where the cool air was. This moving air brings clouds and weather to different parts of Earth.



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Chapter 2 (“Powerful Wind”)

People use windmills to do work. Wind spins the blades, which turn a rod. In the past, people used windmills to grind grain or pump water. Now, wind turbines produce electricity. They can provide power for homes and cities. And they do not pollute. Wind also does not run out.

Chapter 3 (“A Few Problems”)

Wind power has some limits. Wind turbines work best on flat, open land. Trees or mountains can block wind. Or mountains can have very fast winds. Wind turbines need steady wind to produce enough power. They don’t work well if the wind is too fast or slow. They can also harm animals.

Chapter 4 (“The Future of Wind”)

Scientists are working to improve wind power. Some people build wind turbines over water. Other people build better turbines. The new turbines cost less and produce more power. They use batteries to store energy. They spin more slowly. That way, they are quieter and harm fewer animals.

Evaluation

Could students choose relevant, accurate information for their group’s paragraph? Use questions to provide gentle redirection for any groups that struggle to do so.

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.2).

