

Activity - Energy in a Hamburger

Materials

Each group needs writing supplies.

Directions

Energy is everywhere, and everything we do requires it. It plays a huge role in our lives every day, but it is easy to take it for granted and forget just how much we depend on it. To the average person electricity is just something that comes out of the wall, but, in reality, an incredibly complex series of events takes place before it ever reaches the home. The point of this activity is to help us consider just how much energy it takes to make something as simple as getting a hamburger at your favorite fast food restaurant.



Spend 10 minutes brainstorming a list of steps requiring energy that have to take place in order to put that hamburger on your tray at lunch.

Consider these areas to get you started

- Energy to make the beef
- Energy to get the beef to the restaurant
- Energy used in the restaurant
- Energy used in packaging
- Energy that got you to the restaurant
- Energy to make the machines involved in transportation, cooking, etc.

The amount of energy that goes into something as simple as getting a meal at a fast food restaurant is incredible, so you should be able to come up with quite a list!