



Classroom Activity

10 Big Question: How does the earth work?

Geothermal energy debate

As our demands for energy increase, the call for more renewable and cleaner energy options to be made available has become louder. Whether alternative energy sources such as biofuels, solar, nuclear and geothermal energy can meet the energy demands, be cost effective, and be cleaner than fossil fuels is yet to be seen and a hotly debated topic around the world.

As a class, focus on the use of geothermal energy as a substitute energy source over fossil fuels. Split into two groups, one taking the case for geothermal energy and the other the case against. Each group should research their point of view and present their case.

Some questions to research include:

- > Can alternative energy, such as geothermal energy, effectively replace fossil fuels altogether?
- > What is the definition of alternative energy? What is the definition of geothermal energy?
- > How is geothermal energy produced?
- > How cost effective is geothermal energy production when compared with fossil fuel energy production?

Discuss how the debate turned out. Did the research change your mind one way or the other? Which side presented their case better? How do you feel about geothermal energy as a potential energy source?