

SOLAR POWER: BUILD a SOLAR OVEN (K-2)

The SCIENCE of SUNSHINE:

Energy is a power source.

There are many different forms of energy.

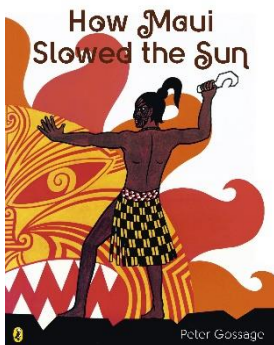


The sun gives earth both **light** and **heat** energy.

We use tools like **solar panels** to capture energy from the sun.



READ:



[How Maui Slowed the Sun](#), by Peter Gossage, tells the legend of a brave Maori who harnessed the sun to help his people. There are many [wonderful versions](#) of this story online in both [book](#) and video form.

ACTIVITY: SOLAR OVEN

Materials: cardboard box, aluminum foil, scissors/box knife (with adult help!), tape (any kind is fine), clear plastic wrap, stick (optional)

1. Cut an opening in the box and fold the flap back
2. Insert a piece of aluminum foil on the bottom of the box (to heat the oven)
3. Wrap the flap of the box with aluminum foil (to reflect more energy inside)
4. Tape a piece of plastic wrap over the opening cut in the box (this will trap heat)
5. Time to cook! Put your ingredients together, place them in the oven, point it towards the sun and wait.

TIP: Use a stick, skewer or ruler to prop open the flap if needed. You might need to move the oven to face the sun if cooking takes a long time.

A solar oven is a box that traps some of the sun's energy to make the air inside the box hotter.

For step-by-step instructions, watch the video at: [Solar Oven STEM Activity](#)

This at-home educational activity is from the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County's literacy-based Stories & STEM program. Stories & STEM is made possible with support from Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc., which receives significant funding from the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.

Having fun? Send pictures or video links of you and your Stories & STEM projects to csharkey@literacypbc.org

