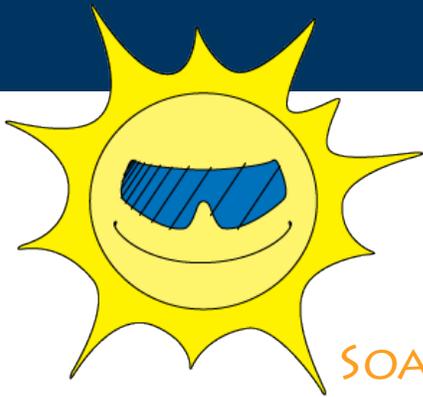


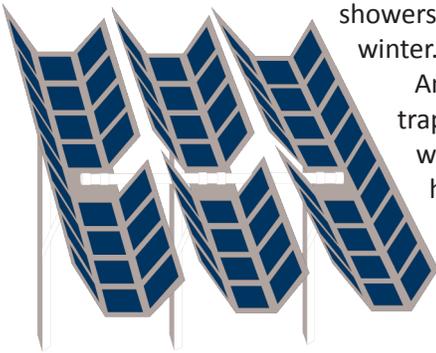
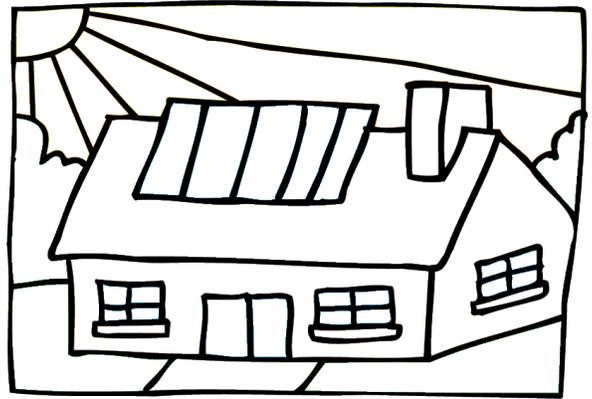
# AUGUST



## SOAK UP THE SUN

Solar energy is a *renewable resource*, which means it occurs naturally and can't run out from using too much of it. Powering our homes, schools and businesses with energy from the sun instead of *fossil fuels* like coal and natural gas is cleaner and safer for the environment.

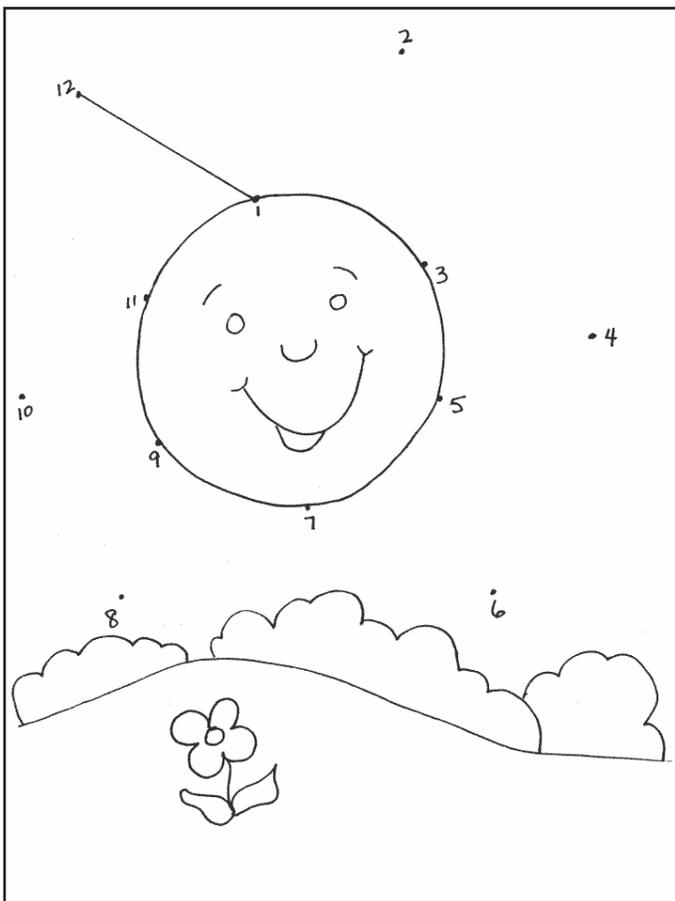
When light from the sun shines on an object, it either reflects or absorbs energy to produce heat. Solar heat can warm water for showers and keep our houses toasty in winter. It can also generate electricity.



And the best part: solar energy doesn't produce ANY pollution or *carbon dioxide*, which traps heat in the atmosphere. **TOO MUCH CARBON DIOXIDE** causes unusual temperatures, warming oceans, melting ice sheets and more extreme weather events, all making it harder for fish, wildlife, plants, and even us humans to live.

So, how does solar energy work? Which colors reflect light and which produce heat? Find out by completing the activity below!

## CONNECT THE DOTS!



## SOLAR ENERGY ICE CUBES

If you've ever seen solar panels, you've probably noticed they're usually dark blue. That's because darker colors absorb more light. Try this fun experiment with construction paper to see how different colors affect the melting rate of ice cubes.

### What you'll need:

- Pieces of black, white, blue, red, yellow and green construction paper
- 6 ice cubes of the same shape and size

### What you'll do:

Put one ice cube on each piece of paper and place them in the sun. Make sure all cubes are exposed to full sunlight. Observe which one melts the fastest, and which the slowest.

